JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

L'Affaire Samuel.

The Government has not scored over the Samuel incident—the appointment of a Select Committee being a transparent device to avoid risking a doubtful seat. With a little organisation, the Opposition could easily have negatived the motion, and thus have placed Mr. Asquith once more in a dilemma. We understand, however, that elaborate plans are being laid for another "defeat of the Government," and that, according to present arrangements, it is to be on a Friday afternoon.

"Did You Notice It?"

This time we are referring, not to the Home Rule General Election compact, but to something else—the coming fight with Germany. We have often hinted at what has been going on behind the scenes, especially since Mr. Churchill took the Navy in hand. And here is an eloquent sidelight on what he told the recent Colonial Conference. Opening the Canadian Parliament, thus spake the Duke of Connaught:—

> During the past summer four members of my Government conferred in London with His Majesty's Government on the question of naval defence. Important discussions took place, and conditions have been disclosed which, in the opinion of my advisers, render it imperative that the effective naval forces of the Empire should be strengthened without delay.

Just read that over again. "Conditions have been disclosed"; it is "imperative" that our Naval forces should be "strengthened"—and "without delay." To the Day!

A Voice From the Past.

Viscount Wolverhampton, better known as Sir Henry Fowler, was invited by Mr. Gladstone, in 1884, to become Civil Lord of the Admiralty. In reply, he sent the Grand Old Man a letter in which he said: "I am bound to consider my qualifications for the office you name. I am entirely ignorant of every branch and detail of naval administration. . . . To be placed in a post for which I am consciously unfit would be painful to myself and disadvantageous to the Government." We commend these words to some of the young men on the Treasury Bench.

Keir Hardie Again.

Notoriety-hunting, posing, Keir Hardie has again been insulting his Sovereign in British dominions beyond the seas. Last time it was India; this time it is Canada. "The King of England will never be blown up by a bomb; he is too insignificant for notice." This, according to the *Montreal Daily Herald*, is what he said during a recent lecture there. It is the sort of thing Keir Hardie loves saying, because it is the thing by which he can draw attention to the fact that he is still existent. As a political entity he is extinct.

Absent Without Leave.

Apart altogether from the ethics of the Government attitude in regard to its recent defeat, the number of absentees that brought it about must give the Man in the Street much thought. What would a large business house say, if over two hundred of its servants—receiving £400 a year—absented themselves how and when they pleased? Surely the offence would mean the Order of the Boot. Oh—etc., etc., etc.

The Man for the Job.

The Daily Orders of a certain Indian Cavalry regiment recently announced that "The Commanding Officer wishes the inside of the men's horses to be white-washed." We have long been trying to think of a suitable job for Mr. C. F. G. Masterman. He may now proceed to India to take up the task thus providentially offered to his practised hand.

The Cabinet Rumpus.

The row is coming. And the Home Rule Bill is going. Every day now spent upon its discussion is a day wasted—but that would apply to almost every day in Parliament in these times.

Going On.

Mr. Asquith says that the Government means to "go on," until it has brought its full cargo into port. Go *hon*!

A Mem.

It will be on Friday, December 6th, that you will be able to get a copy of *John and Mary*. Not before—and probably not after! So please make a mem. of the date—Friday, December 6th.

"Bullets"—the STRAIGHT Competition.

'Cute Quakers.

We have always admired the business astuteness that is characteristic of the Quaker fraternity, but the latest achievement of Messrs. Cadbury fills us with awe. In Adbaston, North-West Staffordshire, there was a parcel of land vested in the Haberdashers' Company on a Charitable Trust. They leased it, and proceeded to erect factories and other buildings on it; while the innocent inhabitants were congratulating themselves on the advent of a new industry in their midst, and looking forward with satisfaction to a handsome contribution to the local rates. But to their horror, the Adbaston Parish Council presently discovered that the conditions under which Cadbury Brothers leased the land freed the firm not only from all obligations as regards rates and taxes, but also exempted them from the necessity to contribute to the cost of the upkeep of the roads leading to their new factories. The Parish Council, excusably annoyed, drew the attention of the Government to the anomaly; but all the satisfaction they got was the statement that their grievance could be redressed only by legislation to amend the local Act under which the exemption was granted in the time of Charles II. So, until a Bill is passed, Messrs. Cadbury will be entitled to evade contribution towards the local revenue!

De Quincey and The War.

Thomas de Quincey saw many quaint things when under the influence of opium; in his ordinary moments he was almost equally fanciful, and occasionally prophetic. Writing in *Blackwood's Magazine* about eighty years ago on "Modern Superstition," he has this reference to the gate of Constantinople that opens on the road from Adrianople: "The very haughtiest of the Mussulmans believe that the gate is already in existence through which the red Giaours shall pass to the conquest of Stamboul; and that everywhe.e, in Europe at least, the hat of Frangistan is destined to surmount the turban—the crescent to go down before the cross." We wonder!

Camera Obscura.

We are always suspicious when a Judge insists on the suppression of a name in Court. No doubt he may sometimes have excellent reasons, but they ought to be stated in order to avoid whispers of partiality. Moreover, the anonymity should be considered a favour instead of being demanded with menaces. Take the case of a witness who, perhaps inadvertently, mentioned a forbidden name. Mr. Justice Deane at once attacked her with indignation: "You have been told not to mention the lady's name, and you are viciously doing it. It will not help your case. It is almost contempt to do so after I had forbidden it." This seems to be exaggerating judicial powers to an extravagant degree, and we do not see what the Judge could have done if the witness had persisted. A judge is placed on the Bench to administer the existing laws, not to create new ones of his own, and frighten nervous women who disregard him. There is too much mystery in high places.

A Precursory Shadow.

We are not surprised to hear that at a recent election held by the members of the Glasgow Jewish Young Men's Institute, the John Bull League candidate—who naturally stood in the interests of a Business Government—defeated the Liberal and Unionist representatives by a clear majority of 90. The winner, Mr. Ognall created considerable amusement by presenting his opponents with "biscuits" for one or two glaring slips made in their speeches. A striking feature of the election was the suffrage granted to ladies, of whom there were a good many present. We are gratified to learn that they all plumped for a Business Government.

Lunatic Suffragism.

We renew our suggestion to the Lunacy Commissioners that they should inquire into the mental state of some of the leaders of the militant Suffragists. Speaking to an audience at Bow, Mrs. Pankhurst justified the pillar-box burning tactics of her dupes. "You can make the Government pay for every penny that is destroyed in the letter-boxes," she screeched. "If a postal order is destroyed and the counterfoil is kept, you can recover its value from the Government." Evidently the poor afflicted lady imagines she is hitting the Government a horrible blow on the Exchequer, whereas she is merely making herself a nuisance and inconvenience to the public. The Government will not be hurt a single penny if Mrs. Pankhurst and Co. set light to the contents of every letter-box in the country. Quite the contrary—they are entitled by their regulations to stick to all the money paid for postal orders so destroyed, as they are liable only for those enclosed in *registered* letters, the envelopes of which are linen-lined, and the flaps sealed with sealing wax. But, by burning the contents of the letter-boxes, the militants will be estranging public opinion and defeating female suffrage. And we suppose that is what Mrs. Pankhurst really wants.

More Journalistic Coincidences.

From an article in John Bull, Nov. 9th.

A lady went with her daughter to a large Oxford Street shop a few days ago. As she expected to be detained some minutes at the glove counter, she told the girl to go on a little further and choose some ribbons. The gloves proved engrossing... At last the mother went on to the ribbon department and enquired if anyone had seen her daughter. The young woman immediately related what had happened: while the daughter was at the counter a woman in nurse's uniform came up and said to her, "Your mother has been taken seriously ill; please come with me at once." The girl naturally obeyed, and all efforts to trace her have been unavailing.

From an article in *The World* of Nov. 19th.

I will relate one of several well-accredited incidents that have occurred recently in big West End shops. A lady with her two daughters was shopping the other day; she was rather pressed for time, so she told them to go on to another department and finish their purchases while she tried on a dress. As they did not return she made inquiries, and found that after they had begun their shopping two nurses came up and told them their mother had been taken dangerously ill and removed to a Nursing Home, where they were to join her at once. They went and—disappeared.

"Young and Fresh."

Some confiding young ladies at the Prudential Assurance Offices wrote to a Mr. Filson Young, who discourses every day about things in general, in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. Their grievance was that they had no time for tea, though why they should have written to Mr. Young about it the Lord only knows. The result was that Mr. Young visited the Prudential, where, we understand, all journalists are always very welcome—or *nearly* all! He tells us that he "spent an hour with the manager of that vast shrine of mathematics," visiting libraries, rest-rooms, kitchens, dining-rooms, and so forth. The explanation about the tea difficulty was that the manager knew nothing about it. However, he intended to remedy it at once, so that "in future no young woman need go unrefreshed for five hours." Commenting upon this, Mr. Young says: "I am also freshed for five hours." What is the precise meanng of this new word? What had the Prudential been doing with him?

Have you won a "John Bull" Turkey? See page 746.

Dead-Letter Act at Worthing.

Though there is a Probation of Offenders Act, the Worthing magistrates apparently have as little knowledge of it as justices in other places. While staying as a guest at the house of Alderman and Mrs. Linfield, a young man of 23 stole a cheque form, worth one penny, and a pair of spectacles. It is admitted that the theft was as mean and contemptible as it was paltry. But listen. The prisoner had been apprenticed to the building trade; at 17 he passed a Local Preacher's examination; at 18 he won first prize in the All-England examination in Theology and Church Ethics, instituted by the Methodist Church. Recovering from a breakdown in health, he tried speculative building and then coal-heaving, "but got into difficulties." In the face of all this, we ask whether his temporary backsliding on a penny cheque and a pair of pince-nez justifies the sentence of six weeks' imprisonment which was inflicted upon him? It is true that he does not look like having a special call as a Methodistical pulpitarian, but as every saint has his past and every sinner his future, he was entitled to at least one chance to recover his stumbling feet.

A Sheerness Scare.

Every now and again somebody who won't go home till morning sees a mysterious airship flying over the fair lands of Britain. This is probably the man who also perceives snakes when he is in the bosom of his family and sea serpents when he goes to sea. Somebody says he heard a Zeppelin airship flying over Sheerness from Germany in the dead o' night on October 14th, and Mr. Winston Churchill, who has sole charge of the air and the ocean, is going to inquire officially whether the said Zeppelin was in fact having a look round to find a nice place for the Kaiser to land in, or was the baseless fabric of a vision. At the time of going to press the betting is ten-to-one on the baseless fabric.

"A Wesleyan Guildite."

With reference to the paragraph under this heading in our issue of November 16th, regarding a charge at Gainsborough, reported in the *Daily Dispatch* as against "Claude Beverley, a school teacher, organist at the Wesleyan Church and secretary of the Wesleyan Guild," we are informed that no person of that name has held such positions at Gainsborough; they, on the contrary, being filled by two gentlemen of irreproachable character. We have much pleasure in giving this statement publicity. Beverley, it now appears, occupies—or probably it would be more correct to say *occupied*—the positions named at Kirton Lindsey.

"Our Dumb Friends' League."

If we were to judge by the Balance Sheet of the Children's branch of "Our Dumb Friends' League" we should have to say that it hardly justifies its existence. For instance, a total of £285 has been collected, and of this amount the "proportion of salaries" is £175, and the "proportion of office rent" £25—a total of £200. If the committee of the League have not particularly noticed this they had better do so with as little delay as possible, or they will probably bring their work under suspicion of being organised chiefly for the benefit of salaried officials.

The Slate Club Season.

In a few weeks' time many people will be looking forward to drawing out at their slate clubs. About this time, also, many of the treasurers of these clubs will be disappearing. We have constantly warned our readers to avoid clubs that do not bank in a joint account. And we suggest that all members of slate clubs should *now* enquire as to the safety of the funds.

Mem. for Sir Edward Grey.

Fearing that Sir Edward Grey may not have thought about it, we suggest that he should take advantage of the general settlement of Turkish affairs in Europe by proclaiming at a suitable moment the annexation of Egypt. There seems no reason whatever why this country should any longer pretend to protect Egypt for a Khedive under the sovereignty of the Turk. Austria-Hungary made no bones about annexing Bosnia and Herzegovina, though in order to do so she had to tear up the Berlin Treaty. The only thing that stands in our way is sentiment. But our verbal pledges were given, with a reservation, long years ago, when circumstances were very different. The dream of Gladstone is about to be realised; the Turk is being driven out of Europe—bag and baggage. That he should be our Suzerain in Egypt even nominally—an Egypt we have lifted from chaos and ruin into prosperity—is surely an affront to British intelligence.

Why Not Constantinople?

It would be a good thing, too, if Europe took advantage of the coming Conference to clear the Turk out of Europe—not "almost," but altogether. While Constantinople remains to the Turk he will always be a menace to our peace. He will just have sufficient stake in European politics to whet his talent for intrigue. As far as this country is concerned, it should not be forgotten that our friends to-day were our enemies yesterday, and may be our adversaries to-morrow; and one of these dark and stormy mornings we may awake to find that Russia has done a deal with Turkey in regard to the old-time Christian city of Constantinople. The best thing that could happen would be for the Bulgars to take the city, if they can—and them failing, a European declaration of its internationalisation.

The Dublin Jewels.

Those "in the know" have been aware for some time past that the stigma of "thief" was accepted by an individual for a consideration. The true history of the theft is about as sordid a tale as can be imagined. Some day it may be told—perhaps very soon. A certain aspect of the case, of a peculiarly painful character, has now been investigated, and the culprits may soon be expected to bolt. Then—well, then we may be able to assist in obtaining the *real* jewels.

The Party Press.

Here are a few more samples of how the Party Press plays the game. These are the headings of their different descriptions of Mr. Asquith's announcement of the Government procedure with regard to the parliamentary deadlock created by the success of Sir Frederick Banbury's amendment:—

Daily Express.—Full surrender of the Radical Tyrants. Premier beaten.

Daily News.—Mr. Asquith solves the Home Rule Difficulty.

Daily Mirror.—Dodging the Crisis.

Daily Chronicle.—No Crisis. Mr. Asquith's firmness and moderation. A silent Opposition.

Standard.—Premier's climb down. Retreat cleverly covered.

And so on—and so on.

The Bolton Bolters.

As we predicted, the result of the Bolton Electon is on all fours with that of others, namely, a substantial, but not fatal, weakening of the Government position—but sufficiently serious, if taken as a criterion, to jeopardise its prospects at the next General Election. We must defer comment upon the freak contest at Bow and Bromley.

Sixpence may win you £200. See page 746.

Christmas Cheer in the Workhouse.

Christmas is coming. It has been here before, but we know it is coming again because various Boards of Guardians have already commenced to discuss the thrilling problem whether they shall deprive the poor pauper of his Christmas beer. At Canterbury, a Mr. S. S. Warren, one of the most emphatic supporters of Lady Mitchell, who moved that no beer be allowed the inmates, is a very obvious humbug. Two-thirds of the men were in the workhouse through drink, said he. They ought not again to taste drink, said he. Nine-tenths of the poor were unable to take a glass of beer without going on and on, said he. And all the time the good man had a silver-mounted flask of brandy concealed in his inner pocket—to drink on suitable occasions for the good of his health. Not to be too inquisitive, does Mr. Warren partake of whisky and beer for the good of his health also? And what is to be his refreshment during the Christmas season?

Who Buys?

It seems that Mr. Churchill has "no present intention" of purchasing the two battleships now building for Turkey in this country and which that country is unable to pay for. Their "ultimate destiny," however, is to be "watched with interest." This means, or ought to mean, that the Admiralty have obtained an assurance from the builders that any offers made for the vessels by a foreign power will be communicated to them and a first option of purchase given. Germany would certainly buy the ships if she could make the bargain, and get them out of the country without their ultimate destination being known. But Mr. Churchill's duty is clear. Those ships should be added to the British fleet—*as they will be.*

A Comic Opera Policeman.

What section of the Metropolitan police does Inspector Joseph Boulton adorn? In the divorce case of Ashton *v.* Ashton, the Inspector and a dairyman were cited as living co-respondents. There was another, but he is dead. The Inspector pleaded not guilty, but "it was true," said his counsel, "that he had once come to the house (an undertaker's shop) to have a glass of stout. Mr. Ashton arrived immediately afterwards, and the Inspector was advised by the wife to go upstairs. He hid under a bed—an idiotic thing to do, seeing that he could declare his innocence—and his presence was revealed by his boots." It was ever thus. You can always tell a leopard by his spots and a policeman by his feet.

"Tempus Fugit."

We wrote to the British Red Cross Society before protesting about a war correspondent who travelled in an ambulance wagon while wounded soldiers were trudging through the mud, and we must congratulate the Secretary on his politeness. He writes: "I am ever so much obliged to you for your letter. I am really very grateful to you for so kindly taking the trouble to write, and I am sure you will fully realise that the Society is in no way responsible for correspondents' reports to newspapers." We quite agree that it is quite possible the wagon in question was not provided by the Society, so we will content ourselves with asking how *The Times* newspaper explains the conduct of its correspondent, whose zeal seems to have outrun his sense of humanity?

Oil in the Empire.

The establishment of the South African oil industry may mark a very important step in the naval future of our country.

Ducats and Daughter.

Mrs. Florence Tointon, of Wellingborough Road, Northampton, is a fortunate woman. In the first place, she is fortunate in the Crown prosecutor, Mr. Prynn, for though she has occupied a great deal of her leisure of late in stealing from shops in the town articles of considerable value, and has actually worn out many of the things she has stolen, when charged before the magistrates the Clerk asked the prosecuting solicitor, "Do we understand that these charges are to be formally made, or do you merely wish to make reference to them?" Mr. Prynn answered sweetly, "I merely wish to make reference to them." In the second place, she is fortunate in her father. "The defendant," said her solicitor, "is the only daughter of a gentleman who held a high public position of trust in the country—a man of wealth who, since his daughter's marriage, in addition to her husband's adequate salary, had given her an ample allowance." In the third place, she is fortunate in that she has not had any illness to account for her predatory eccentricities. In the fourth place, she is fortunate in her judges, the magistrates, who not only let her off, but said "it was a matter for regret that there would have to be publicity."

Well-to-Do-ness and Kleptomania.

No doubt there is such a thing as kleptomania—a lunatic mania, instead of a criminal impulse for stealing. We entirely dissent from the opinion of many magistrates, however, that it is wholly confined to well-to-do women and never to poor ones. If a woman goes into a number of shops and steals whenever she sees a chance, she is a kleptomaniac (in magisterial jurisprudence) if she is well-to-do and well-connected; if a woman goes into a number of shops and steals whenever she sees a chance, she is a thief (in the strict reading of the law) if she is poor and hungry; the true judgment probably being that if the poor woman were not tempted beyond endurance by her poverty she would not steal at all. Mrs. Tointon gets off under the Probation of Offenders' Act; whether she would have got off under that Act if she had been a poor creature lacking bread to appease her hunger and shelter for her weary and aching body, is a question which we shall not attempt to answer. We shall merely watch the Northampton magistrates with a new interest.

Ballot for Coronation Medal.

We hear a very funny story with reference to a Coronation medal. It seems that twelve men of the National Reserve in Durham attended the ceremony. It was notified that three medals would be given, and that these would be balloted for The draw duly took place, and of course there were nine disappointed men. Eight of them seem to have accepted their "luck" in a philosophical manner, but the ninth began to cry! This warrior is a very much married man, and the only condition upon which his wife allowed him to travel to London was that his reward would be a medal. Seeing the position the poor fellow was placed in, one of the men who had been lucky enough in securing the disc threw it over to the warrior, with the remark, "'Ere tha art. 'Ang it round t'old woman's neck, an' if I wor thee I'd pull t' string damn tight."

The Very Thing.

Please note that that most wonderful of all annuals, —*John and Mary*—the joint Christmas Number of this journal and *Mrs. Bull*—will be on sale on Friday, December 6th. Quite apart from your own copy, do not forget the kith and kin abroad.

Everybody's Wanting It—A "J. B." Xmas Turkey.

Fiction Foreshadows Fact.

Our readers will remember that four or five years ago we published a very clever skit, purporting to give an account of a rural political meeting attended by a prominent London politician, who sat upon the platform and heartily applauded the pomposities and platitudes which are common to both political parties—to discover, from the colour of the Chairman's tie, when the evening was nearly over, that he was in the wrong camp! The *Daily Mail* the other day printed the following paragraph:—"By-election Comedy: Unionist M.P. at a Liberal meeting. An amusing incident occurred last night when Sir Fortescue Flannery went to Bolton to support Mr. Brooks. Sir Fortescue, by mistake, went to a Liberal meeting, and was quite pleased with the reception until he noticed that the chairman was wearing a red tie. Then the M.P. promptly withdrew to the meeting where the colour was blue." If you see it in JOHN BULL, it *will* be so!

The Hippodrome Licence.

If the cranks upon the Council again prevail, there is only one thing to be done. We must get rid of the cranks. It is a gross scandal that, in the heart of the metropolis, one of the best places of entertainment should be handicapped by the fads of a set of old women who—because their disordered stomachs and palates are attuned to windy, nauseating and indigestible liquid concoctions called temperance drinks—have the will, and power, to prevent respectable and normal citizens from obtaining reasonable refreshment. Thank goodness, the ides of March are near.

War News!

A pink paper recently offered us a biscuit for one of our own jokes. So we show our indulgence by asking whether humour was intended when a scribe, who calls himself St. Giles, moralised over Turks scurrying across a bridge over—the Bosphorus!

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

THE "MOP" POLICY.

The new Liberal Member for Bolton proposes to abolish Tariffs, the Army, the Navy, and every other institution obnoxious to the Radical mind, by the simple expedient of "mopping 'em off."

Once on a time our policy
Was Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform,
But now we've got another cry
To help us in the coming storm—
Tom Taylor, Bolton's latest choice,
Has been the first to give it voice:—
"Mop 'em off!"

From this time forward he'll not deign
To argue with his Tory foes,
For argument is often vain,
Whilst his new watchword always "goes":
It's short, it's simple, and it's sure
To make the biggest meeting roar:—
"Mop 'em off!"

Our Navy costs a frightful lot,
But I confess it puzzles me
How we could stick to what we've got
Unless our fleets command the sea;
But none the less, our latest cry
To Britain's ships we must apply:—
"Mop 'em off!"

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For printing at the head of its issue of November 19th: "*Mr. J. L. Garvin At Home—A Warning to Parents,*"

THE WORLD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating of one of the characters in his tale, "Aggie's Husband," published in the "Weekly Tale-Teller," that: "*He* BIT HIS BREATH *and closed the door,*"

MR. C. RANDOLPH LICHFIELD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "*The Peninsular and Oriental* STEAMER *who was seriously injured by the police after* HE *had shot a constable in yesterday's rioting at Waihe Mine,* HAS SINCE DIED. *The constable is recovering,*"

THE GREENOCK TELEGRAPH AND CLYDE SHIPPING GAZETTE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its football news that: "*The excitement was intensified when immediately afterwards Carr, with a* FAST SLOW SHOT, *found the net,*"

THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of a recent Suffragette demonstration that: "*The finale to a great meeting arrived when the* MAN CONTAINING THE PETITION *was slowly led through a multitude of cheering men and women to the Prime Minister's residence,*"

THE DAILY HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the miscellaneous column of "The Southern Daily Echo": "*Good* SECOND-HAND AND MISFIT *Clothing,* AS WORN BY THE LEADING GENTRY,"

MRS. SKINNER (21, Alma Road, Winton)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its "London Letter," regarding the "present leader of the Opposition," that: "*The* OLD WAR-HORSE *was evidently ready to make a skilful* STROKE WITH THE RAPIER *whenever it should be necessary,*"

THE CORK CONSTITUTION
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the "Woburn and District Reporter," dated NOVEMBER 16TH, 1912, *that:* "*The Woods are now in all their* SPRING AND SUMMER BEAUTY, *and are open to pedestrians,*"

MR. B. GARRETT
(Proprietor, Fir Tree Hotel, Woburn Sands),
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating under its illustration of the famous race-horse: "*Rock Sand was imported into America as a sire, but,* OWING TO THE BETTING LAWS, *was found* USELESS FOR BREEDING PURPOSES,"

THE DAILY MIRROR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in "The People," that: "*Our 'G.' Brand Clogs are* CUT FROM *the very best material and* EVERY CUSTOMER,"

THE WELLINGTON CLOG COMPANY
(6, Wellington Street, Glasgow),
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by more than one competitor, preference will be given to the reader whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue.

Our "Bull" is now worth Two Hundred Pounds. See page 746.

FOR SHAME, LORD NORTHCLIFFE!

A DISGRACE TO BRITISH JOURNALISM—AN OUTRAGE UPON PUBLIC OPINION.

JOHN BULL is not a particularly fastidious journal. It does not hesitate to call a spade a spade, and, sometimes, when it comes across an exceptionally dirty specimen, it calls it something else. During its seven years of life, it has had some very nasty topics to handle, and at times it has incurred the displeasure of its more fastidious readers. We venture, however, to assert that never in the history of British journalism has public opinion been so outraged as it has been by the *Weekly Dispatch* during the past two weeks. We refer, of course, to the disgusting "confession" of Seddon's disgusting widow—whereby, in consideration of a few pieces of gold, she brands her helpless children for all time as the unhappy offspring of a father who was a cold-blooded and callous murderer—and of a mother who was an accessory before and after the crime, and is a self-confessed perjurer, hypocrite and blasphemer to boot. She wickedly invoked the name of God in witness of the innocence of the guilty wretch, and paraded heartbroken grief and devotion when, unless she lies again, she was filled with loathing and detestation towards him. She now ruthlessly tears away the all too thin veil of doubt which a generous public would gladly have allowed to protect the names of her children. Let us see just what the story is, which the *Weekly Dispatch* has thought it worth while to buy. This woman stood in the dock by the side of her husband, charged with the murder of an old lady who had lived with them and whose money had passed into the control of Seddon in very suspicious circumstances. It was proved beyond doubt that the old lady had been poisoned, and the jury found Seddon guilty, but acquitted his wife. What was her attitude then?

In the Witness-Box at the Old Bailey.

Asked about the events of the night preceding the death of Miss Barrow, Mrs. Seddon replied that while her husband was at the theatre and she was with her sister-in-law, she heard Miss Barrow shout, "I am dying." On her sister-in-law's advice she wrapped petticoats around the patient's feet and applied hot flannels. She tried to make her as comfortable as she possibly could. "Did you think she was dying?" asked Mr. Rentoul. "No; I had never seen anyone die," replied Mrs. Seddon, simply. Mrs. Seddon went on to say that she was twice called up from bed, and the third time her husband said he would attend to the patient and both of them went to the room. "She seemed to go to sleep," continued Mrs. Seddon, telling her own story, "and my husband said I had better go to bed. I said, 'What is the good? She will only call me again.' I made up my mind to sit in the chair. Miss Barrow was asleep and I was dosing, sleeping—tired.

"It was getting on towards daylight when my husband drew my attention to the fact that the snoring and breathing had stopped. Then he lifted up her eyelids and said—'Good God, she's dead.'"

Two or three days after the conviction Mrs. Seddon also wrote a pathetic letter, designed to influence public opinion in Seddon's favour. Passages are so clear in their intention that they may fittingly be recalled:—

> I cannot believe that my husband has been found guilty of murder. Both of us all along have been confident of an acquittal. . . .
>
> Now I feel sure that there must be many people who feel as I do that my husband has suffered an injustice, and I fervently hope that they will take advantage of the first opportunity of signing the petition which will be issued on his behalf.
>
> It would be some solace to me to know that there were people in the world who still believe in my husband's innocence.

A few day's after Seddon's conviction she was also writing as follows:—

> Before I left the Old Bailey for good I saw my husband again. He was just the same as ever. I should like the public to know what he said. "Maggie," he said, "you know I am absolutely innocent of this dreadful charge. God is my judge. He knows. For goodness sake, it is no use of you breaking down like this. You have the children to think of."

Mrs. Seddon also took an active part in the drawing up of the petition for Seddon's reprieve, a part so well acted that she was able to undergo the ordeal of endeavouring to address a Hyde Park demonstration.

And *now* what does she say?

In Her Present "Confession."

she tells us that all along she knew of the murder. As the poor old lady, on the night she died, was moaning and groaning in her agony, this female fiend, according to her own account, stood at the door watching her husband "mixing water from fly papers and white precipitate powder." She saw him "approach the bed and give Miss Barrow several doses." She saw him, whilst the unhappy victim still breathed, strip her of her clothing, explaining that it was "important that the body should become cold as soon as possible in order that the doctor should think that the poor woman had died before he (Seddon) came home."

But liars should have good memories—and newspapers which buy "confessions" from liars (and probably help to write them) should have good sub-editors. Let the *Dispatch* and its new contributor reconcile this tale—that the wife knew all about the murder from the start, and had actually seen it being committed; that she had been threatened with death if she divulged what she knew, and so on—let them, we say, reconcile this tale with the following passage from the "Confession":—

> *As we stood in the dock through those weary days at the Old Bailey, "I did it," he whispered. "I did it, Mag, but if you'll help me, by God, I'll help you! If the worst comes to the worst and we are both sentenced, then I'll speak up and tell the truth, that I am guilty and you are innocent."*
>
> "'*I did it*,' he whispered; '*I did it, Mag.*'" And yet she had *seen* him do it, and he had threatened to shoot her if she told anyone!!

Lord Northcliffe's Responsibility.

The *Weekly Dispatch* is a Harmsworth paper, and is, therefore, under the supreme direction of Lord Northcliffe. We do not say that he was personally consulted before this journalistic outrage was committed, although we have reason to think that he was. But whether he was or not, he knows of it by this time, and we ask, what does he think of it? It is only a week or two ago since he was explaining to the British public the ethics of journalism, and enlarging upon the responsibility and power of the Press! Surely there is some mistake somewhere. Lord Northcliffe has no warmer admirer than ourselves. We regard him as in many respects, as the pride of the newspaper world, and we are happy to remember that it was under our own auspices that he originally won his spurs. We cannot, however, resist the view that in this case he has allowed a false conception of press enterprise to warp his judgment, and that in doing so he has brought discredit, not alone upon the great house of which he is the head, but equally upon the whole field of British journalism.

"Bullets" Prize now value £750.

"REALISATION SALES."

A "MUG" TRAP IN THE STRAND.

A correspondent says: "I was in the Strand the other day and I stopped outside an open-fronted shop next the Palace Hotel. I walked in; on a rostrum in the background stood a faultlessly attired individual holding forth upon the merits of a stock of gaudy jewellery on the table in front of him. The shop was just comfortably full. At the front, near the table, could be seen a row of seedy individuals closely examining the goods. Now, gentlemen,' said the auctioneer, 'some firms advertise, but my company instruct me to give the stuff away. I have to conduct a realisation sale here every Friday. Will the friends at the back come a little closer and so save my voice?' Flash watches are held up and displayed in all their glory—assisted by the electric lights. "Now, gentlemen, I promised I would give some of my goods away, and so I will. Gentlemen, I have here some extra fine Canadian gold watches, warranted for ten years, jewelled in over a hundred places. They cannot be bought from any jeweller in this thoroughfare for less than £6 10s. Who will bid me a shilling for one of them?' One of the seedy individuals responds with a bid and others take the price up to 5s. Then there is a pause. 'Gentlemen, I said I would give some of my goods away and I will keep my word. I will pay you to take these goods away.'

A Gift which should be Scrutinised.

"The place is now full and the announcement of the free gifts has whetted the curiosity of the unsophisticated. The bidding goes on until the watch is knocked down to one of the seedy individuals at a sovereign. 'Put your watch down there, sir,' shouts the auctioneer, pointing to the table, and put your sovereign on the top of it. I promised to give some of my goods away and I will keep my word.' The watch and the coin are placed upon the table and the auctioneer proceeds to sell a few more watches. These are eagerly bought up, and the process of placing the watches and coins on the table is gone through each time. The watches are left for the moment, and a sale of trashy tea-spoons, razors, and penknives is conducted, ultimately the watches being reached again. Addressing the seedy-looking individual who was the first purchaser, the auctioneer says, 'You, sir, bought a watch off me, did you not? And all you expected was value for your money and your property. Well, sir, here's your watch and here's your pound back, and I hope you are satisfied,' concludes the auctioneer, as he proceeds to gather up all the other sovereigns. 'Gentlemen, I do not want to deny anyone the chance of having some of my free goods. I have here a few more watches at a pound, if you care to invest in them.' More 'flash' watches are sold at a sovereign a time. Again they are placed on the table, but this time the sovereigns go into the till. No further watches being required, the auctioneer speaks out again. 'Gentlemen, I said I would make it worth your while to take those goods away. You, sir, and you and you, bought watches from me, and I want you to take up your watches and also accept as a present this gold and platinum chain. Gentlemen, the auction is concluded and I shall sell again at four o'clock. Thank you, one and all.' The 'gold and platinum' chain is worth ninepence at the most."

A Reader's Bad Bargain.

We visited the place referred to—the Colonial Auction Rooms, 370, Strand—as another reader had told us that he had bid £5 for a gentleman's gold watch, a lady's gold watch, a watch bracelet and a hair-brush, and as he had not the whole amount of cash upon him had left a deposit of £2, the balance to be paid when the goods were claimed. Becoming doubtful of the real worth of the articles he consulted us. We therefore decided to take the opinion of one of the best known jewellers, who accompanied us to the place. After a careful inspection, he assured us that the whole lot were not worth more than a couple of sovereigns! Our friend should have taken our advice before parting with any money—it is, of course, no use locking the cash-box after the cash has gone.

SIR FREDERICK'S CONTINENTAL TRIP.

BREAK UP OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.

Our article last week with reference to Sir Frederick Williams and his establishment at South Kensington had immediate and marked effect. Within a few hours of its publication relatives and professional friends of the Baronet paid him a visit, the result of which was a sudden departure to the Continent. We sincerely hope that the trip will benefit his health—and (to quote an old perverted proverb) that absence will make his heart grow fonder—of something else! In the meantime, the coffin has been smashed up, and the whole of the weird wigwam has disappeared.

Many readers have written asking the significance of the coffin, and incense, and black draperies. It is somewhat difficult to explain the matter in a journal of general circulation; but we may say that medical history records many cases which are catalogued under the name of Necrophilia, and the victims of the disease are usually rich bachelors. In many of the recorded cases it was the practice to place young girls, clad only in a shroud, in the coffin to pose as corpses. Then the madman (for insanity is undoubtedly the explanation) would enter the room, chant a prayer for the "dead," and finally throw himself upon the coffin, and cover the "corpse" with kisses.

We do not suggest that girls were ever placed in the coffin at South Kensington—indeed, we think that most unlikely. As regards the burning of incense, this is accounted for in many ways. Richelieu, for instance, lived in an atmosphere laden with the heaviest perfumes in order to induce artificial emotions. In the Orient the pleasant perfumes are esteemed for their supposed stimulative effect upon the emotions, and the harem of the Sultan of Turkey is redolent with the fragrance of flowers.

We are afraid that these cases of abnormal taste are more prevalent in this country than most people imagine, and it is a sad reflection that such moral degeneracy has usually preceded the downfall of great nations.

We understand that Sir Frederick Williams is likely to be absent from this country for a considerable time.

A MENACING MONEYLENDER.

BORROWERS, BEWARE!

F. W. Pleasance is a registered moneylender. His business address is 33, Theobald Road, Leyton. A few weeks ago a man living at Camberwell applied for a loan of £5. Having filled up an application form, he received the following:—

> I beg to acknowledge receipt of your application form, for which I thank you, and I shall be pleased to arrange the advance if all is satisfactory.
>
> It will, however, be necessary for me to send my representative to see you to arrange terms, etc., and if you will remit P.O. for 10s. 6d. to cover the out-of-pocket expenses of his calling, I shall be pleased to send him with the cash, and if he finds everything satisfactory he will be able to complete business on the spot.
>
> Thanking you and trusting to hear from you so as to save delay.

The return fare from Leyton to Camberwell is about one shilling! To this modest request for half-a-guinea, the applicant replied that he would not pay any preliminary fee for so small an amount, but that his security was ample and he was prepared to pay a decent rate of interest. Pleasance then reduced his demand to 5s. This offer was also refused, at the same time an intimation being sent to Pleasance that he was considered to be a fee-snatcher, and that the at one time intending borrower did not desire to become one of his victims.

A weak spot was apparently touched, for Pleasance replied in the following terms:—

> Your libellous letter to hand, and I am sending the same to the Head Offices of the ——— (the applicant's employers), and as you know directly they discover you are attempting to borrow money you will be instantly dismissed.
>
> I shall also place the matter into the hands of my solicitor.

It is difficult to characterise such a threat in terms too strong. Borrowers should certainly beware of a man capable of making it.

ABDUCTION AGENTS INVADE ENGLAND.—IV.

THE FUTILITY OF LEGISLATION—GIRL TEMPTERS—RETICENCE OF PARENTS—MORE CASES.

By Our Special Commissioner.

If the Prevention of Immorality Bill passes, the risks the procurer who ensnares girls will run may be just a little greater, but the reward will be out of all proportion. International law never stopped blockade running in time of war; neither will the present Bill stop the White Slave traffic. The question is economic—more than moral. When girls are able to marry or to earn a decent livelihood the evil will largely disappear. I say "largely disappear," because I am aware that at the present time a great many girls who are recruited for White Slave purposes come from the fairly comfortable class. What Mr. Dodman pointed out in our last issue is, I am sorry to say, only too true. Moving about town, few people know me as the Special Commissioner of John Bull. And what do I find? It is quite usual to take typists out for motor rides or to dinner or supper, or to give them presents of furs and jewellery. What is the *quid pro quo?* A week-end at some watering-place! Of course the novelty soon wears off—for both—and then what happens? Money will buy another girl. I do know instances, however, where the girl is by no means the victim. When she is wicked—and I am sorry to say that in a great many cases she is the tempter—there is nothing in the world to beat her. Here is a case that will be recognised in Fleet Street at the present time.

A Married Man's Infatuation.

A married man with a grown-up family and in a good position, in the course of his business had his path crossed by a girl as wicked as she was pretty. She was in receipt of at least £200 a year, so she was not in need of money for support. She had numerous decent single young fellows running after her—but these she ignored. They had no money. Meeting our married man every day, she deliberately set herself out to capture him. First it was a theatre and supper. Then came the presents—and then the week-ends. Then she managed to defy her victim's wife. At last the man came completely under the girl's control. He robbed his firm of close upon £10,000 and bolted with her. He remained on the Continent with her for about a month, when he was captured. And the girl? Well, she got away with most of the cash, and no doubt is now on the look-out for another man with money—a married man preferred.

A French Officer's Story.

My Paris agent writes me of a case reported to him by an officer in the French army. A girl from Tooting answered an advertisement in a London paper for a lady's maid. She got engaged and proceeded to Havre. Once there, she was introduced into a licensed house, drugged and outraged. On the first opportunity she escaped. The officer met the girl crying in the street. Speaking English well, he soon found out the true position of affairs, took the girl to the British Consul, and left money for her passage and travelling expenses home. Here is a copy of a letter from the girl's father to the gallant officer. I wish I were permitted to publish the rescuer's name and address:—

I feel I cannot let another moment pass before writing to you. My poor Alice arrived here this morning more dead than alive, in a pitiful state of fright at what she had escaped, and at what she had seen.

I wish I could trace the advertisement which lured her on to that terrible den, but it appeared in the ——— and I remember she went to the Strand. She cannot recollect the number, her mind is somewhat unhinged at her experience.

Pray heaven that she may never meet with such "friends," as the man styled himself, again. But we also pray that there might be more like you, my dear Sir, and your companion in this world, to protect those poor misguided girls who fall into these traps.

I should very much like to see you to shake your hand in fatherly gratitude, and also for my wife's part.

It is ludicrous to express our thanks; both mother, Alice, and myself feel so beholden to you that all the thanks in the world would be insufficient for what you have done in the aid of humanity.

I enclose three pounds. I understand that the ticket, shawl and hat cost this sum, together with the pocket money. I also return coat which your landlady kindly lent her; she will find something in the pocket to indemnify her for the use of same. I wish I could make them as many thousands (but I am a working man) and also I suppose you might be offended.

A Case from Leeds.

Here is a copy of a letter which I have received from a Leeds reader:—

I have been greatly interested in your articles on the "White Slave Traffic," and if you could give me a little advice on the subject I should be greatly obliged to you. Some time ago the daughter of a friend of mine made the acquaintance of a young gentleman, and he has paid her attentions ever since. He is supposed to have had a considerable sum of money left to him by his godmother a little while ago, and one of the stipulations attached to it was that he should live for six months of the year in England and the other six abroad.

The lady is going out there in sixteen days' time. They are not what we in England call engaged, but it is supposed that they are to be married. He says it is not usual for French couples to become engaged. Her parents are very anxious over her going, but she seems absolutely determined on it, and no amount of persuasion can alter her intention. The young gentleman was liked by all those who saw him, and was a frequent and welcome visitor at the home of my friend. Of course, he may be all right and everything above board, but one or two things cause me some doubt, and if there is anything wrong I should like to stop it. In the first place, although this money he inherited is supposed to be a big sum, he has not altered his mode of living at all. That is, he still goes in for the same class of clothes, etc., that he did before. Another thing, the money was supposed to have come from his grandmother at first, but it appears to have been altered afterwards to godmother. Also why should whoever left the money, either his godmother or grandmother, stipulate that he should live for six months in England and six months in X———, when they were foreigners? Further, if his intentions towards the girl are of the best, why cannot he adopt the English custom and become engaged in a proper way? I cannot help but feel that there is something wrong, especially after reading your articles, but I feel quite helpless in the matter. I know it would be resented if I were to try and induce her not to go, and yet I feel I must do something, and the time is so short. Is there any means by which I could find out any particulars of them in X———? The worst of it is the time is so short and the whole arrangement seems to have been made in a hurry. Another thing—even though this money he inherited was supposed to be a large sum and there was also an estate in X———, they live in a small house, rented at about 8s. a week.

I am making searching enquiries regarding this case, and cannot at the moment say more than that my investigations promise to result in the unearthing of a very interesting and instructive matter.

"Bullets"—the Winter Evening Competition.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

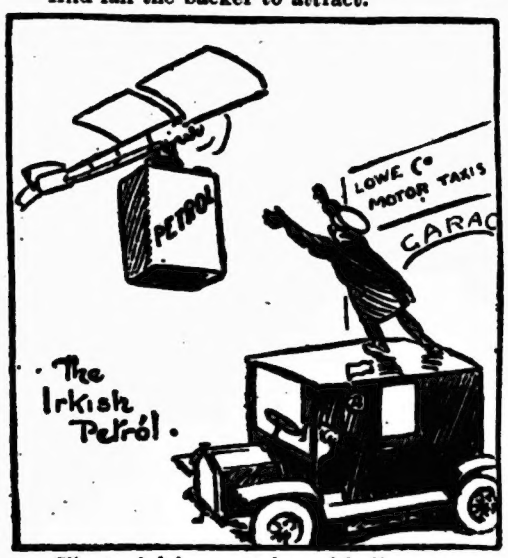
Once more Frank Wootton heads the list
Of winning jockeys on the flat,
And JOHN BULL lifts his sturdy fist
To wave a laudatory hat.

Bolton has spoken, and the "blues"
Drink deep of disappointment's cup;
Now we shall see how "Tom" pursues
His policy of "moppin' up."

If "bookies" ancient laws invoke
To guard them from the Gaming Act,
Who knows? They may worse ills provoke,
And fail the backer to attract.

The tactless Andrew Yankee pride affronts
By offering their ex-Presidents to pension;
Teddy, ineligible, snorts and grunts,
But Taft's opinion there's no need to mention.

Asquith denies, with emphasis and unction,
His promises are of the pie-crust sort—
But while the Lords remain 'reft of their function
This latest pledge will be of ill-report.



The taxi driver watches with dismay
The price of petrol soaring ever higher,
And if the enhanced cost he has to pay,
He sees no option but he must re-tyre.

A TRICKY "TRANSFER AGENT."

HOW THE UNEMPLOYED ARE DUPED.

F. Stallworthy, *alias* F. Savage and Co., of 333, Gray's Inn Road, runs what he terms a "Dairy and General Business Transfer Agency," coupled with which is an Employment Department.

His transfer business lies principally in transferring into his own pockets deposits of cash belonging to people to whom he offers employment.

A correspondent replied to a recent advertisement for a young man to manage an employment agency. "Savage" explained that 25s. a week would be paid, but that a deposit of £50 in actual cash was absolutely necessary, a guarantee bond for the amount being contemptuously waived aside. An agreement was offered stipulating for fourteen days' notice on either side to terminate service, and that then the cash deposit would be returned.

Our correspondent did not grip this generous offer—and it is a good thing for him that he did not. It is a very old game of Stallworthy's. We can trace three cases in which when, upon becoming aware of the nature of the "business," depositors have wished to sever themselves from it, they have been politely told that they can whistle for their money. Upon a summons for recovery being issued in the County Court—an institution well known to "Savage"—he always manages to get off by promising to repay by small monthly instalments, which he artfully evades. He has no assets—the few old sticks of furniture he has in his dirty office belonging to his wife.

A RECORD ADVERTISEMENT ORDER.

FURNISHING COMPANY'S £11,000 CONTRACT.

Two years ago we announced what was then a record order which we had just secured from a leading firm of advertisers, amounting to £10,000. This figure has, however now been eclipsed, we having within the last few days entered into a contract with the well-known Advertising Contractors, Messrs. A. E. Abrahams, Limited, of Stratford, acting on behalf of the Hackney Furnishing Company, amounting to over £11,000. We think that this creates a world's record. Other advertisers, please copy.

"BULLETS" BRING BULLION.

OVER £4,000 ALREADY PAID IN PRIZES.

Although "Bullets" has only been running a few weeks, the value of the prizes up to the present already exceeds the sum of

FOUR THOUSAND POUNDS!

and we hope to go on increasing the amount.

We are still keeping well ahead. Not only do a larger proportion of our competitors receive prizes than in any other competition, but our special system of *reading every coupon twice* is beyond doubt the most thorough and the fairest for all competitors.

Remember that in addition to the large sum of £200, the amount of our First Prize, there is also an excellent chance of winning one of our 2,000 SPECIALLY SELECTED XMAS TURKEYS, as well as one of an exceptionally large number of other handsome prizes.

"Bullets"—the STRAIGHT Competition.

THE REPORT OF THE DIVORCE LAW COMMISSION.

WHERE THE MAJORITY REPORT IS WEAK—BACHELORS AS DIVORCE AUTHORITIES—LEGISLATING FOR STATUES—ABASING THE POOR.

By the Author of "Divorce Problems of To-Day."

After eight years' strenuous agitation in this matter I am naturally pleased to find that the Majority Report endorses almost exactly the recommendations I made in the *Fortnightly Review* six years ago, as well as the clauses of the Bill introduced by Mr. Bottomley into the House of Commons to make separations mature into divorces and to relieve the innocent spouse where the other has been sentenced to death and the sentence is commuted. The Majority Report adds one other cause of divorce—namely habitual drunkenness. It also allows divorce where one spouse has disappeared for seven years or where the Court can reasonably presume death. Many will perhaps sympathise with Mrs. Tennant; she pleads that the sober partner should have every incentive not to abandon the "drunken partner to his or her declension," but no doubt habitual drunkenness often provokes the sober partner to crime.

The points on which the Report is *unanimous* are of the utmost importance, inasmuch as they include (1) the equality of the sexes as to any ground of divorce sanctioned by law; (2) the granting of local justice to the poor in the matter of divorce by means of Commissioners of Assize (though this local justice is on a much stingier scale in the Minority Report); (3) the highly important extension of causes for annulling marriages, where such diseases as insanity or communicable venereal complaints have been concealed or where the wife is already pregnant by another man and does not disclose the fact; (4) sweeping reforms in regard to separation orders except as to their maturing into divorce on the application of the resp ndent; (5) the new facilities for ensuring the presumption of death when one partner has disappeared, or allowing divorce when the disappearance is seven years old, and (6) the recommendations as to the publication of divorce suits.

Where the Majority Report is Weak.

The Majority Report is not strong enough on three points. In the first place, the Scottish law is not followed as regards allowing divorce where both spouses are equally guilty. In Scotland, the guilt of the spouses does not prevent their being divorced, but it does affect their financial obligations to each other. Thus, for example, a guilty wife cannot claim alimony from a guilty husband in ordinary circumstances. This is only common-sense. The Majority Report only recommends that the Court should have discretion whether to grant divorce or not in such circumstances, and this still leaves the poor more or less at the mercy of the King's Proctor, though by reason of local facilities better able to fight this un-English system of espionage.

In the second place, I agree with Mr. Spender in his contention that if a respondent against whom a separation decree or (in certain cases) separation order, has been made, is to have the right of asking to have it converted into a divorce after a certain time (as the Majority Report recommends), he should be able to claim this *as a right* and not be denied divorce at the discretion of the Court.

In the third place, nothing has been recommended to prevent a wife summoning a husband for arrears of maintenance when he has been imprisoned in respect of a period when he cannot earn money.

Bachelors as Divorce Authorities.

The Minority Report is drafted with great plausibility, though it is perhaps a little discounted by the fact that two out of the three signatories are bachelors.

Their reasons for disagreeing with the Majority Report are perhaps better expressed than reasoned. They seem to think that greater facilities for divorce must entail the dissolution of the family, and they give the United States as an example. They do not mention the cogent reasons given in the Majority Report for thinking all statistics of divorce in the U.S.A. untrustworthy, while in praising the "conjugal fidelity" that prevails in South Carolina, the only State in the Union which has no divorce, they omit to mention that the laws of that State are extremely complacent as regards concubinage. Nor do they appear to have duly weighed the sexual laxity that prevails in nearly all countries where there is no divorce, and which is to all appearance only tempered by the facilities that exist in Austria, Italy, and other countries for migratting in order to get divorces elsewhere.

Legislating for Statues.

They take the line that because the cases of hardship are not, as they think, numerous, the victims in such cases ought not to obtain relief, but this principle of counting heads scarcely encourages the public to prefer a Minority to a Majority Report. The underlying idea is no doubt that divorce is of itself pernicious, whereas many sensible men and women accept the Norwegian maxim, that divorce is "relief from misfortune and not a crime." Happily-married people never want divorce, while unhappily-married people are apparently condemned either to rear their children in an atmosphere of incessant quarrels or worse, or, if separated, are expected to emulate the asceticism of monks and nuns without being secluded from this wicked world.

The signatories of the Minority Report are on much surer ground when they contend that the recommendations of the Majority Report are likely to end in divorce by mutual consent. Their suggestion that divorce by consent, if properly safeguarded by financial rules and substantial time limits, necessarily ruins society, is amply refuted by the conditions that prevail in every other country in Europe that allows divorce at all. The principle either of divorce by mutual consent, or of separation maturing into divorce, has widely prevailed in Western Europe since the days of Frederick the Great and Napoleon. This view, however, cannot be developed in the space at my disposal, and I can only refer readers to Mr. S. B. Kitchin's admirable work on "The History of Divorce."

The Commissioners are fortunately unanimous in regard to the excellent recommendations for simplifying the law in regard to domicile, and clearing up many of the tangles and anomalies due to the existing confusion on this point.

Abasing the Poor.

The evidence clearly establishes that the poor usually ignore the marriage law owing to their poverty, and it may be doubted whether even in more favourable conditions they will acquiesce in the statutory necessity of adultery as complacently as the rich. If the rich will only ignore the marriage law as courageously as the poor the Government may possibly be forced to action.

But the rich seem to care very little whether the poor have self-respect or not. So long as they can be well looked after like useful slaves or cattle for the purposes of the big employers, the Legislature is content. The feelings of the poor may go to the wall. This is no mere vague denunciation. *The Times* has taken good care to circulate the Minority Report. But let everyone who can afford it, buy the new summary of both Reports for 1s., and read of the disgraceful negligence displayed by the governing classes and the official administrators in regard to the Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1895. It is the classical example of a "non-controversial measure" made by the rich for the poor.

Have you won a "John Bull" Turkey? See page 746.

THE SOAP WRAPPER NUISANCE.

WATSON AND SONS' HIGH-HANDED ACTION.

Messrs. Joseph Watson and Sons, Ltd., of Leeds, have been endeavouring to improve the sale of their brands of soap by offering a considerable number of prizes to purchasers. Their present scheme consists in the collection of wrappers of three particular varieties, which must be sent in together, those covering one type being valueless unless accompanied by the two others. As the first and second prizes are motor-cars valued at £575 and £356 respectively, the competition has brought into being a new and very undesirable type of professional collector, who—sometimes posing as a grocer—sends round emissaries to purchase the vouchers. The price given is about 7s. per thousand, and in the present case we understand that two dealers have joined forces and intend to send to the firm 600,000 wrappers. The transaction will, of course, leave them an enormous profit, as it will be easy to sell the first and second prizes to the makers or to private purchasers. Whether the little game is sportsmanlike is, of course, a debatable matter. To our mind, it seems much like backing a horse after it has won.

Bolstering up a Defective Scheme.

Messrs. Watson have evidently become alarmed at the abuse to which the defective nature of their scheme rendered it liable, and are now seemingly awake to the fact that the prodigality in soap induced into even the most lavish servant girl collector of wrappers could not account for many thousands of vouchers getting into a few hands. They have apparently been making enquiries, the result of which was a very peculiar prosecution recently at York Castle, a man named Henry Dunn, employed by one of the large collectors, being summoned for alleged false pretences, for the purpose of inducing people to part with the wrappers—the "false pretences" being that he had held himself out as in the service of Watsons' and had told a woman that her wrappers were "no good." She, however, considerably watered down in her evidence this allegation, her version of the defendant's statement being that he had said: "I am gathering the wrappers for Messrs. Watson," and had added that they were "no good by themselves." In one colloquial sense the first phrase was, of course, quite true, while the second could not be challenged—although in his opening statement the solicitor for the prosecution had said that she had purchased them out of her housekeeping money and was entitled to the value of them. Of course, the fact was that the wrappers, being all of one kind, *were* by Watson's own terms quite worthless by themselves.

Surprising Ignorance.

The next witness was one of Watson's officials, who, to judge from a newspaper report, seems also to have had a rather hazy notion of even the rudimentary rules governing the competition, for he is stated to have said that, "If there were thirty-six wrappers of one kind and two each of a different type were sent in, the person would be entitled to a prize"—it being clearly laid down in Messrs. Watson's conditions that with every ten of one brand one each of two others must be forwarded to the firm. However, the prosecuting solicitor persevered; but even he was apparently aware by this time of the high-handed and unjustifiable nature of his clients' action, and—as though the widespread nature of the occurrence was in itself an offence—"submitted that the practice was a prevalent one and *his clients* regarded it as unfair"! He proceeded that: "The bench were entitled to take into consideration the statement that the defendant was 'gathering for Watson's'!" However, common-sensed magistrates had no hesitation in contemptuously dismissing so flimsy a case—which, in our view, reflects little credit upon its instigators.

The Defendant—a poor and comparatively uneducated man—has received many congratulations upon the skill with which he single-handed fought and won the case. No expense was spared by the prosecution, an advocate of high repute being imported from Leeds, but Dunn had comparatively little trouble in "drawing rings" round his adversary; while his cross-examination of the two witnesses—in the course of which he made them contradict themselves on vital points—was quite masterly.

"A COWARDLY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY."

MORE ABOUT THE STAR-CHAMBER METHODS OF THE C.H.A.

A Deal correspondent, apropos of our recent criticism of the methods of the Co-operative Holiday Association, of Brunswick Street, Manchester, characterises as unfounded our statement that the expulsion of the two ladies from that body casts a slur upon them. He says that the guests or members of the Association are required on entry to subscribe to certain regulations. "Any who do not comply with those regulations, or otherwise are deemed unsuitable, are requested not to apply again." To say that no slur is cast upon persons so expelled is, however, mere sophistry and taking advantage of an arbitrary rule which gives the Committee power to so expel without reason and without notice—which rule, by-the-bye, is not printed on the application forms, the omission probably explaining why the enrolments have been so numerous.

On the other hand, a Gateshead-on-Tyne reader says that these expulsions "are part of a regular system of getting rid of any members who may happen to offend any officials at the holiday centres. It is a foregone conclusion that anyone receiving a 'letter of complaint' will—no matter what they reply—in due course receive the 'notice to quit.' The invitation to reply to the unknown and anonymous charge is only given to make a show of a judicial enquiry and has no bearing on the decision of the 'Committee'—this being evident from the refusal to tell the young ladies what the charge was." Our correspondent speaks from experience, for he also, after a visit this year to one of the holiday centres, received the impudent letter suggesting misconduct. Though he demanded the name of his traducer, the Society has not given him the information. Another correspondent—also from Gateshead—applauds our criticisms and strictures. He is one of six who have been expelled following a holiday at the Lakes, the persons so unjustly treated including a lady from Stoke-on-Trent, two gentlemen who came from Manchester, one from Hull, another Gateshead gentleman (presumably the correspondent quoted above), and himself.

Already most of the respectable members of the body must have had enough of such proceedings, and it is not surprising to read the Secretary's own admission that they are leaving the movement wholesale. Indeed, anyone who values his moral reputation should not be tempted by cheapness to join the parties, as he would evidently risk being slandered in this safe and unanswerable fashion.

By the way, it is but fair to point out that the Holiday Association has no connection whatever with the great Co-operative Wholesale Society, which also, we believe, runs holiday centres.

IS LIVERPOOL SO MEAN?

CITY OFFICIALS' POOR ESTIMATE OF ITS INHABITANTS.

A Liverpool working man has laid before us the following sad case. He lives in one of a block of dwellings owned by the Corporation. The lamplighter employed by that body apparently delegated part of his work to his son, who asked our correspondent's boy to light a lamp on the top landing of the building. The result was that the unfortunate youth had his eye seriously cut by a piece of broken glass—the injury resulting in the eye having to be entirely removed. It is stated that the glass had, to the knowledge of the officials supervising the premises, been broken for some days before the accident. The reply of the Corporation to a claim for compensation is a repudiation of all liability. The parents are in extremely poor circumstances, and therefore unable to commence proceedings to recover damages. Even an appeal for some *ex gratia* payment has elicited the reply that the Housing Committee cannot see their way to make any. It is an exceedingly hard and pitiful case, and one which seriously reflects upon the City of Liverpool, as its officials evidently think that its inhabitants are mean enough to grudge the almost infinitesimal fraction of a penny which it would cost them per head to make some compensation to a poor family who have, at any rate a moral, if not a legal, claim upon them.

Sixpence may win you £200. See page 748.

GRIEVANCES AT GRIMSBY.

TRIBULATIONS ON THE TRAWLERS—HOW OFFICERS AND MEN ARE ROBBED—FRIGHTFUL SANITARY CONDITIONS—AVOIDABLE FATALITIES.

It is a tradition in Great Grimsby that once upon a time a certain well-known individual went a trip on a trawler, and was thereby journalistically set up for life, gathering sufficient materials from the voyage to supply endless "copy" and lectures. Certainly Grimsby seems a town of troubles, prolific in the perturbations of its populace. The newly-arrived is soon aware that he is in a centre of complaints.

Widespread Discontent.

It is the practically unanimous opinion of the seafaring community that almost every man sailing on the steam trawlers out of Grimsby, from the captains downward, is being swindled by the cooking of the accounts in the offices of the trawl-owning companies, but the case is regarded as somewhat hopeless and incapable of being remedied. One instance has been brought to our notice in which, after being paid off, an engineer lay in his bunk and overheard a captain and mate discussing the "share-out." On the figures which were spoken of, it seemed certain that the skipper and mate had been paid their shares on a £40 greater margin of profit than the engineer. It was proved that *two sets of accounts had been prepared to swindle the men!* As this wholesale robbery of the fishermen is perpetually going on, it is not surprising to hear the following anecdote, showing the extreme meanness of some of the wealthy fish merchants of Grimsby. One man, who was a cook on a trawler that was bringing home a "prize" (*i.e.*, a salved derelict), was stopped on the pontoon by the shipowner and told that his share would not be more than half-a-sovereign, if so much; and knowing that the man was in shallow water the wily "boss" offered him ten shillings there and then. The poor cook, relying on his employer's reputation for Christianity and the fact that he was a leading light at a local chapel, took the money—only to find out later that his right share was £1 17s. 6d. Cases have been known of clerks in these shipping offices, when threatened with the police on some defalcation being discovered, turning round to their employers and asking them *whom* the police would take if they did come—meaning, of course, that if prosecuted they would expose the system of swindling the fishermen by lying "settlement sheets."

Sufferers by the "Share System."

The main sufferers by the "share system" which obtains on the trawlers sailing out of the port seem, however, to be the skippers and the mates. According to this plan, their pay is arranged so that the master takes one-tenth of the net profits of a trip and the mate one-fourteenth. These men are supplied with a printed account form at the end of each voyage, averaging about eight days. The form, when filled in at the offices, shows, in the shape of a balance-sheet, the profits of the trip *according to the trawl-owning companies.* A close inspection of these "settling sheets" frequently reveals some really startling discrepancies in the amounts charged for coal on different journeys. It is obvious that the more there is charged up to this item, the less there will be in the way of "profits" for the master and mate. As an example, we print the following figures from the actual sheets, the two boats being of almost the same tonnage and horse-power, the larger of the two, if anything, showing slightly smaller expense for coal. On a trip beginning in August and lasting twenty days, the amount for coal charged by the company in the sheet-account rendered to the master and mate was £51 10s., which works out at, roughly, £2 10s. *per diem.*

On another trip in July, and lasting exactly a month, the coal bill was £100, which makes £3 6s. 8d. *per diem*—a difference of 16s. 8d. in working similar ships. What these men complain very bitterly about is that they have no means of checking the actual value of the coal used, as it is conveyed from the railway trucks to lighters, and from them to the trawlers in baskets which contain no specified weight. The men say that if the coal were put direct on to the trawlers from the railway trucks they would be able to check the companies' accounts. One mate has calculated that, through wrongful amounts being charged for coal, he loses from 15s. to £1 a week in his wages, which do not often come to over 35s.

Sanitary Scandals.

The sanitary arrangements (or rather the lack of sanitary arrangements) on all the Grimsby trawlers, except a few of the newest type, are as disgraceful as to be almost beyond belief. The matter is indeed difficult to describe adequately in cold print, but let it suffice to say that on the majority of trawlers *there is no lavatory accommodation provided at all!* Here is another beautiful example of the working of our delightful Board of Trade ("*if*," as one Grimsby fisherman put it, "*there is any*"—he evidently thinking the "Board" to be like Mrs. Harris); it allows boats engaged in the nation's food supply to put out in such an unutterable condition. Several lives are sacrificed each fishing season quite unnecessarily amongst the trimmers on these boats because the trawl-owning companies will not go to the expense of having an ash-ejector fitted in their boats, as on most other seaworthy vessels. The result is that in rough weather the poor fellows coming on deck to dump their ashes overboard sometimes get washed away, and, in the words of a man who has been engaged in the trade for thirty-three years, "If a man gets overboard off a trawler, it's a case with him," as the vessels do not stop, and even if they did, in nine cases out of ten the crews are not competent to handle the lifeboats, not having the requisite practice—verily the Atlantic scandal on a small scale!

Hard Taskmasters.

The workmen at Immingham Docks who have to go backwards and forwards each day from Grimsby, complain very much that they are often kept on at work a few minutes after the last chance of getting a tram or train back to Grimsby. As this walk is seven miles, and sometimes the workers do 24 hours at a stretch, it will be admitted that this is a matter that should be altered. We are informed of one case in which a man after working for 24 hours was let off at five minutes to eleven with a twenty minutes' walk to catch the last tram, which leaves Immingham at 11 o'clock! It goes without saying that he rounded off his labours with a bit of involuntary pedestrianism.

The coxswain of the Grimsby lifeboat, who has just retired, is said to have saved *over* 300 *lives* in his career, jumping into the dock at times in his clothes, and some of the good people in Grimsby are very disgusted that up to the present no public recognition has been made of this man's heroism.

Local pessimists hold the strong belief that the red-tape Boards that destroy hundreds, get the "plums," while those who risk their lives for others go comparatively unnoticed.

Luckily, however, life in the town is lightened by a lively sense of humour. For instance, a stranger who suffers from heart disease is liable to get a sudden and perhaps fatal shock when he is confronted by a sign like this:—

QUEEN'S HEAD
(TEMPERANCE)
HOTEL.
Licensed to sell Beers, Wines and Spirits.
A. SHAW
(*Proprietor*).

The above is an exact copy of the sign of a Grimsby "Temperance Hotel" in Victoria Street. When you enter you find the people at the hotel *are* aware of the joke, and seem to enjoy being asked for teetotal beer.

Everybody's Wanting It—A "J. B." Xmas Turkey.

Who is Charles F. Higham?

CHARLES FREDERICK HIGHAM is the highest-paid Business Consultant in Europe, and one of the world's leading Advertising experts. He attracted the attention of the leaders of all Political Parties, and the public in general, several months ago, by his "Appeal to the Party Whips" for straight-forward, simple, truthful advertising—instead of the usual befogging circulars and pamphlets sent to voters at election times.

He originated the "signed" advertisement in Great Britain—stating his candid opinion of advertised branded goods over his own signature.

His services are retained by leading advertisers whose wares are known now to every household. He is individualistic in the extreme. He only advertises those things he absolutely believes in, and, under no circumstances, will he help to promote the sale of any article or firm that does not live up to all it claims to be.

He is Managing Director of the firm that bears his name, with offices at 2 and 3, Norfolk Street, Strand.

Remarkable Letter to Business Men.

He deplores the fact that the young generation are not thorough enough and do not prepare themselves for better positions in the world of business. He welcomed the appearance of the "Business Encyclopædia," both as an inspiration and an education. He advises every young man to learn the lessons the successful men explain so simply and interestingly in those wonderful volumes

He writes:—

"I sincerely believe that if the ambitious young man of to-day would devote one hour a day to the extraordinary lucid advice and suggestion given to him in 'The Business Encyclopædia' he would be worth twice as much to the firm he works for in six months' time. Never have I read so much that is worth knowing about 'how to get on.' It is, excepting 'The Illustrated Chambers's Encyclopædia,' the *only* work of reference I constantly use in my daily work. I believe that ten years' hard study in the school of life could not supply the information that is so freely given by the most successful men of our own times in these splendid volumes.

"'Wake up' was the sound advice of our King, but equally important is it to 'Read up' what the men who have fought and won are so willing to tell you."

How this Concerns You.

Now, if you who read this wish to succeed in your business career, you cannot afford to neglect Mr. Higham's pregnant message. No matter how expert you are, how wide your experience, or how keen your interest, you will find the Business Encyclopædia of vital use to you. It is the only work that gives full and detailed information on all the problems that can face you in your daily work.

If you want to know about any point in book-keeping, the "Business Encyclopædia" will tell you. If you want to know about drawing up a balance-sheet, or a profit and loss account, you will find it here. If you want to know the law as it affects your own particular calling, if you want to know anything about manufacturing, if you want to learn all about loose leaf and card-index systems, you can learn it here. You can learn, in fact, of any and every subject connected with business. Surely you realise the help this knowledge would mean.

Written by Successful Men.

And this information is given by some of the most successful business men in the country, for the contributors to the "Business Encyclopædia" include such men as Richard Burbidge (Managing Director, Harrod's Stores), Sir Thomas Dewar, S. F. Edge (the well-known Motor Expert), Joseph Fels (Fels-Naptha Soap Co.), A. W. Gamage (Managing Director A. W. Gamage Ltd.), J. Murray Allison (Advertisement Manager of *The Times*), John Hassall, R.I. (the celebrated Poster Artist), John Lawrie (Managing Director, William Whiteley, Ltd.), Sir Joseph Lyons (Managing Director, J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.), H. G. Selfridge (Founder of Selfridge's, Ltd.), H. Simonis (Director of the *Daily News*), Wareham Smith (Director of the *Daily Mail*) and many others. The "Business Encyclopædia" is

Indispensable to the Young Man

who means to succeed. The *employe* who rises is the one who makes himself master of all those wider questions relating to Business, for which his careful training in detail so admirably fits him. In the "Business Encyclopædia" the ambitious young man will find every detail relating to the thousands of matters on which he wishes to inform himself in order to increase his value in the commercial market.

To the Mature Business Man

the "Business Encyclopædia" will prove equally valuable; in it he can turn up without an instant's loss of time any one of the many points concerning business on which he lacks information. It contains hundreds of business articles written by the most successful business men of the day. With this work beside him the most diffident man may acquire confidence in his own capability, and, proceeding to put his ideas into practice, may make of his business life a sure success.

TWO OPINIONS.

Messrs. J. S. FRY & SONS, Ltd., Bristol:—

"We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work. It is THE work *par excellence* for every business man to possess."

A CLERK'S OPINION.

Mr. G. W. Read, Clerk, Fortnam Road, London, N.: "I never made a more gratifying purchase. I regard the 'Business Encyclopædia' as a most profitable investment and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

A FREE BOOK.

The Publishers have compiled a handsomely illustrated book, which will be sent to you *post free*. It contains information of priceless value to the man who means to succeed. It will tell you all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and how it can be obtained for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance to be paid by small monthly payments.

To THE CAXTON PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, a copy of the Book describing the "Business Encyclopædia."

NAME .....
(*Send this form or a postcard.*)

ADDRESS .....

.....

PATIENT: "Doctor not in—will he be long?"
CLARICE: "I don't know, sir; you see he has just been summoned to one of them eternity cases!"

NEWBOUND'S OLD TRICK.

WHO WILL LAY HIM BY THE HEELS?

Our reference to the railway-fare snatcher, Newbound, of 20, Queen's Square, Leeds—who makes it a practice to get into communication with several advertisers in a particular town for share capital, suggesting that he should run down to see them, takes advantage of an excursion to do so, interviews them, holding out promises of financial assistance, and then "touches" each victim (ignorant of the other calls) for his full railway fare, the would-be borrower subsequently being told that the security was not good enough for an advance—has elicited many letters from persons who have also been had by this rascal. One London sufferer tells us that "about 15 or 16 years ago" (!) he advertised for a financial partner. "Newbound came from Leeds"—as a matter of fact, though his letters are addressed from there, our information is that probably he was living in London—"and after perusing ledgers, stock, &c., said that the business seemed all right and he would call again in regard to signing the necessary agreement, &c." Then, on the pretext that he had not brought much money with him and that it was too late for the bank, he asked our correspondent to let him have £5, promising to settle the next time he called. Our friend—who has probably grown more sophisticated since—did not again meet the plausible scamp until about nine months later—in a public-house. He says he "then flopped into him," but people in the bar stopped them and he got away.

Other readers send us letters illustrating the man's tenacity; when refused the full amount of railway fare, he continually writes suggesting that half should be sent in advance. In view of the further particulars now published, the authorities may be disposed to take action—or we should be pleased to place victimised persons in communication with one another, with a view to joint proceedings.

AN ELECTROPHONE GRUMBLE.

DEPRIVED OF MR. BONAR LAW'S DULCET TONES.

We have become accustomed to complaints regarding the telephone service—here is a grumble concerning its offspring, the Electrophone, an appliance by means of which persons may listen, at home, to concerts, lectures, etc. Those desirous of hearing Mr. Bonar Law's speech at the recent Albert Hall meeting were much disappointed on receiving from the Company a printed postcard informing them that the address would not be transmitted—in at least one case the annoyance being considerably enhanced by the fact that the canvasser had obtained the £5 subscription on the strength of promises about political meetings at the Albert Hall and other places. It is true that when the agreement was signed it bore a number of clauses printed in small type, one of which it has now been discovered gave the Company the right to discontinue at any time the service to any given theatre or hall, but probably even those subscribers who read the paragraph would interpret it as meaning merely that the Company were simply protecting themselves in the event of their contract with one of those places being put an end to. It is hardly possible that patrons could have understood it as enabling the Electrophone Company to deprive them of the service for which they had paid. By the way, is it the fact that the appliance was utilised in transmitting the speech to certain newspapers?

OVERCROWDING IN TUBES AND UNDERGROUND.

For the fourth time this year we draw the attention of the President of the Board of Trade to the scandalous overcrowding of trains on the Underground and Tubes. Some day a terrible disaster will happen, in which case we shall do our best to see someone placed on trial for murder.

Our "Bull" is now worth Two Hundred Pounds. See page 746.

THE ROAD AND STREET PERIL.

MR. THOMAS FARROW SOLVES THE PROBLEM.

A remarkable and unique Invention to prevent Motor-bus and Taxi-cab Accidents.

THE FARO-METER

FACTS.

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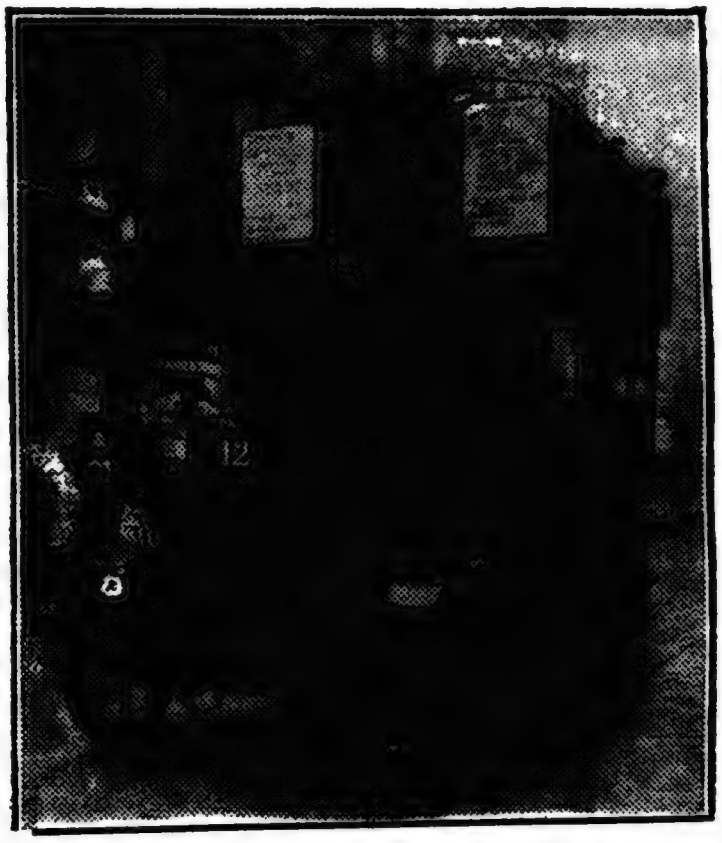

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The "Faro-meter" can be PURCHASED outright, or HIRED on annual Royalty. Special rates for large supplies to public Authorities and Companies.

Patented throughout the World.

The Faro-meter and Motor Appliances, Ltd., have acquired the exclusive rights of Mr. Farrow's epoch-making invention. As shown in the illustrations the Faro-meter registers the number of miles at which the vehicle is travelling. It is placed in such a manner that the figures are plainly visible to the public and police, while on the reverse side of the instrument the same figures are shown to the driver and occupants of the bus or taxi-cab. Should the vehicle be travelling above the speed limit of, say 10, 12, or 20 miles per hour, a loud gong is immediately set in motion, and continues to ring until the speed is reduced. If the driver ignores the gong the Faro-meter exhibits "red" or "danger" figures. It is illuminated at night by electricity, etc.

THE FARO-METER AND MOTOR APPLIANCES, LTD.,

HOWARD HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

A. H. & Co.

OUR LATEST WAR NEWS.

BRILLIANT CABLE FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

[*The following was sent by special courier to Canton, thence by chartered steamer to Hong-Kong and cabled from there direct to London.*]

SALOPI PASHA, *Nov. 12th.*—At the early hour of 8 o'clock this morning I was awakened by the sound of heavy firing some twenty miles to the northward, which indicated that a terrific battle was being waged. After snatching a hasty breakfast of ham, eggs, and devilled kidneys, these being the only things procurable under the circumstances, I left my quarters at 10 o'clock by my repeater, and started off in the direction of the firing. After having proceeded about two miles I was forced to beat a somewhat hasty retreat owing to a heavy rainstorm overtaking me, as I had left my umbrella behind.

3 *p.m. by my repeater.*—The firing still continues and I estimate that at least 20,000 must have fallen on each side, such is the fury of the combatants.

Nov. 13th.—It is as I foretold in my notes of yesterday. A terrific engagement has been fought. The carnage must have been too awful to describe in mere words, as the wounded are pouring into the city, no fewer than fifteen having already arrived, there being 9,000 still to come.

We have received news from Lieut. Waggoner, *via* Vienna and Carmatite House, that Salonika has fallen; thus I am in the happy position of being able to inform you that Salonika has capitulated. Meanwhile, the Turks are gallantly defending the city and fighting goes on as usual.

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT'S CABLE CONTINUED.

SALOPI PASHA, *Nov. 14th.*—The 9,000 wounded, mentioned in my notes of November 13th, have not yet arrived here and speculation is rife as to the cause. Some cling to the opinion that it is owing to the bad state of the roads—others think they have been put to the sword by an army of Servians which, we hear from London, is encamped some ten miles from here.

Supplies are getting low, and more than four courses for luncheon are now the exception rather than the rule. In the bazaar this morning I was fortunate enough to secure a serviceable pair of goloshes, so, should the rain cease, I shall make an attempt to reach the scene of hostilities. Meanwhile, all is quiet. I. FEERNORT.

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

AN APPEAL FOR A LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR THE POOR.

We again make an appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, at the approaching Christmas season, to distribute gifts of food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the London poor. Upon previous occasions the response has been most gratifying, and we feel sure that the same will be the case again this year. First, we want money with which to buy orders upon local butchers, bakers, grocers, and others, enabling the recipients to obtain food and take it to their own homes for consumption, a course much preferable to crowding them into public buildings in the old-fashioned way. Every subscription will be duly acknowledged in our columns. Secondly, we want left-off clothing of all shapes and sizes. This we will have carefully sorted out by the hands of willing workers, and made into suitable "lots," corresponding with numbered orders which will be given by our helpers to those most in need of the things. Thirdly, we want toys for the little ones, to help to brighten their dismal homes at Christmas time. We can also do with boxes of oranges, sweets, fruit, crackers—in short, anything likely to bring a little happiness, if only for a few days, into the homes of the poor. Gifts of money should be sent to the Editorial Offices, 93 and 94, Long Acre; presents in kind should be directed to the depôt of the Fund, 171, Mare Street. London, N.E.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCXXII.

[*In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.*]

AN APPEAL FOR EIGHT SUFFERING CHILDREN.

The following pathetic case is that of a South London family:—

The father is a carman by trade, but he broke his leg two years ago, and from then till recently has been an invalid, unable to work. He is now, however, able to do so, and would be glad of any kind of light employment—such as watchman, etc. The mother does sewing, but on account of their poverty she had to pawn her machine in order to get food for the children, of whom there are eight, the eldest a boy of 12, and the others aged 11, 9, 8, 7, 4, 3 and 1 year, respectively. It is an affectionate family, despite its awful poverty, and the children are kept scrupulously clean, but they are all practically starving, and nearly naked. If any of our readers desire worthy objects upon whom to bestow cast-off clothes they may be cordially recommended to these poor people. Owing to the thoughtful generosity of several of our readers, who have sent us money to be distributed in instalments as the various cases are published, we have been able in this, as on previous occasions, to render temporary assistance in the shape of redeeming the sewing machine and procuring them food. We sincerely hope, however, that the publication of these distressing particulars will result in the obtaining of either work for the father, or a substantial sum to enable the family to face with some degree of comfort the rigours of the winter.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents named:—

CCXIV.—H. D., 20s.

CCXV.—E. A. A. K., 2s.

CCXVII.—"Tardy," 1s.; "Two English Roses," 8s.

CCXIX.—T. B., 1s.

CCXX.—"Prisoner of Zenda," 2s. 6d.; "Bachelor," 5s.; C. S., 5s.; "Manager," 1s.; A. McC., 2s. 6d.; J. B. M., 1s. 6d.; T. B., 1s.; "A Neighbour," 5s.; "Pat," 3s.; "Sympathy," £5.

CCXXI.—B. R. S., 5s.; G. M. E., 2s.; S., 5s.; "Just a Spot in the Ocean of Want," 6d.; "South African Reader," 2s.; A. J. E. S., 4s.; T. H. S., 10s.; W. B., 5s.; "Ivy Mary," 1s.

We have to return our very special thanks to Messrs. Garcia Jacobs and Co., of Covent Garden, and to Mr. C. McCarthy, of that firm, for the splendid amount of £1 10s. 7½d. obtained in their collecting box. We are glad to think that our work is appreciated by our neighbours.

We also desire to thank specially Mr. Percy Goodman, of 48, Stanhope Gardens, for the sum of £1 3s. We understand that he keeps a box in his house, and makes his friends contribute when they win at cards!

OUR COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others willing to assist in this work.

LONDON.—Mr. D. Porter, 70, Hornsey Road, N., ½d.; Mr. L. F. Brocon, Alwyne Castle, St. Paul's Road, N., 1s.; Mr. A. J. Bletsoe, 33, Canonbury Road, N., ½d.; Mr. G. A. Coleman, 3, Queensland Road, Holloway, N., 1d.; Mr. T. W. Porter, 714, Holloway Road, N., 6d.; Mr H. Beeching, 243, Junction Road, Holloway, N., 8d.; Mr. F. Arnott, The Clarendon, Balcorne Street, South Hackney, 1s. 2½d.; Mr. Boltslawser, 151, Drury Lane, W.C., 6d.; Mr. W. Biden, Clothworkers Arms, 52, Arlington Street, New North Road, N., 6½d.; Mr. A. McDonald, Crown and Appletree, 37, Berwick Street, W., 4d.; Mr. J. Neal, Blue Posts, 54, Charlotte Street, W., 9½d.; Mr. F. Vesco, Carlisle Arms, 2, Bateman Street, W., 4d.; Mr. F. Tully, Crown and Two Chairmen, Dean Street, W., 2d.; Mr. F. C. Spillard, Bromley Arms, Cleveland Street, W., 3½d.; Mr. G. Edwards, Clayton Arms, Kennington Oval, S.E., 3½d.; Messrs. Cohen and Co., 44, Strand, W.C., 1d.; Mr. E. Newschwander, Charing Cross Hotel, W.C., 4d.; Mr. F. Beaurrier, 28, Orange Street, W.C., 4½d.; Messrs. Garcia, Jacobs and Co., Bow Street, W.C., £1 10s. 7½d.; Mr. Percy Goodman, 48, Stanhope Gardens, £1 3s. 0d.

Total £3 1s. 1¾d., of which we have allocated 11s. 1¾d. to CCX.; 20s. to CCXIX.; 10s. to CCXX.; and 20s. to CCXXI.

"Bulle's"—the STRAIGHT Competition.

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SKETCHES IN COURT.

NO. 4.—LORD ALVERSTONE.

By "Taberna."

He comes into Court with slow step and sweep of his crimson robe. He impresses you at once with an air of great dignity. You feel at the outset that in the external things he is an admirable representation of the judicial system of England.

When he takes his seat, he leans back in his high padded chair, with the Royal arms behind him and the green hangings beside. He has cultivated repose to the point of making it an art. Save for an occasional nod as he listens to evidence or speeches, he remains practically motionless whenever it is possible for him to do so.

He is an old man, and a handsome one. The features are strong; the mouth firm and grave; the nose straight; the eyes clear; the forehead massive. And all the face has an expression of great strength and candour; and the lines that come of years and labours suit it so well that now in his seventieth year it seems as though he has only just attained the perfection of his manhood. No student of humanity seeing him could possibly take him for anything but a judge.

Such is Lord Alverstone, Lord Chief Justice of England. His has been a remarkable career. The son of a Queen's Counsel in the time of Queen Victoria, Dicky Webster went to the South-Eastern circuit, and combined with the profession of the law a Parliamentary career. In due season he became Attorney-General; then for a few months he was Master of the Rolls; and thereafter he was elevated to his present eminence. It is generally agreed that he has been a success in a position which demands a conjunction of many qualities. That the whole of his judgments should be universally approved is, of course, out of the question. There is about London a man who considers himself to have had justice denied him in the Lord Chief Justice's Court, who does not stick at telling Hyde Park open-air meetings his side of a remarkable story, who even makes grave allegations against Lord Alverstone's judicial conduct. But such things as these there must be. Five of the Judges of the King's Bench Division are senior in date of appointment to the President, but his authority is unquestioned and indisputable. Lately there has been talk of impending changes, for Lord Alverstone begins to feel the weight of his age, and his health has not been too good. Besides, twelve years is a long time to discharge without relief duties at once so onerous and delicate.

With all his solemnity of manner, and with all his regard for the dignity of the law, the Lord Chief Justice is a very human judge. It vastly amuses him to hear counsel adopting a style of speech which is less often heard now than it used to be—wherein counsel puts himself in the place of his client, and speaks in the first person.

"Not only did I not steal the cheque, but it never was in my possession; nor was I aware that it was a forged cheque," and so forth, has a very comic sound when it is spoken by an immaculate young member of the junior Bar. To counsel appearing before him Lord Alverstone is uniformly courteous, but he grows impatient of delay or of the amplification of an argument, or the pressure of a point, which he has indicated "does not help." Himself, he never says a superfluous or ineffective word.

He wears a big gold ring on the little finger of each hand. He has no heir to his peerage. He drinks milk on the Bench, and takes an interest in physical culture.

DE LUNATICO INQUIRENDO.

THE SAD EXPERIENCE OF MR. SMITH.

One of our readers has sent us a leaflet which was handed to him in a public-house, and we must confess that as an ex-parte statement it is fairly convincing.

It is entitled: "How I Escaped a Terrible Fate! A Scandal and Disgrace," and relates how attempts were made to shut up Charles Smith, of 39, Waghorn Street, Peckham, into a lunatic asylum. We suppose that most lunatics consider themselves sane, but probably very few of them can express themselves as lucidly and convincingly as Mr. Smith does in his leaflet. It appears that he was taken to Constance Road Workhouse and charged with being a person of unsound mind, etc.

A doctor asked him what was the matter with him. "I told him I was alright, so he told me he would see me in the morning and have a talk with me. In the morning he asked all the most ridiculous questions that a man ever asked of another man, and I said to him, 'I will answer any reasonable question you like to ask me, but I will not answer to a lot of rot; I will not answer you at all,' for I knew whatever I said to him he was writing down against me."

This seems a sensible line to have taken, but the only result was that, after being kept at the workhouse for two weeks, Mr. Smith was sent to Long Grove Asylum, where he seems to have been treated with great kindness. "I had a very pleasant time," he says, "but at the same time I knew that I was being as closely watched as any other man in the hospital. After being under close observation for six months, I proved to the doctor and those in charge of me that I was a quiet, hard-working man and would not hurt a worm."

We wonder what would have happened to a less patient man in such circumstances? It is not likely that his time would have been quite so pleasant, and in any case it seems hard that anyone should be shut up in a mad-house for six months without serious reasons. On the other hand, we admit we have only heard one side of the case, and it is possible that Mr. Smith may have behaved in a more suspicious manner than he himself realises.

IMMORAL FABLES.

By F. W. Thomas.

A certain Man having Decided to take unto Himself a Wife, cast His Eyes around until They Lighted upon a Rather Dossy Piece of Goods in a Short Skirt and a Merry Widow Hat. And the more He Looked at Her, the More He thought She was the Only Female in the World for Him. Which is What they call Love.

And he made a Few Enquiries about Her, discovering that She was a Top-Note Roller Skater, a Downy Bird at Tennis, Hot Stuff at Dancing, could sing like a Canary, Play the Piano until you could not Hear Yourself Think, and in her Spare Time would just Sit Around and Look Pretty.

Her Nose was exactly the Shape he Liked, and he was Never Tired of Likening the Curve of her Ear to a Little Pink Shell.

All of Which has Been Done Before.

In the Course of Time, he Managed to get an Introduction to Her, and after She had Inspected his Banking Account, she Decided to Marry Him. And it was so!

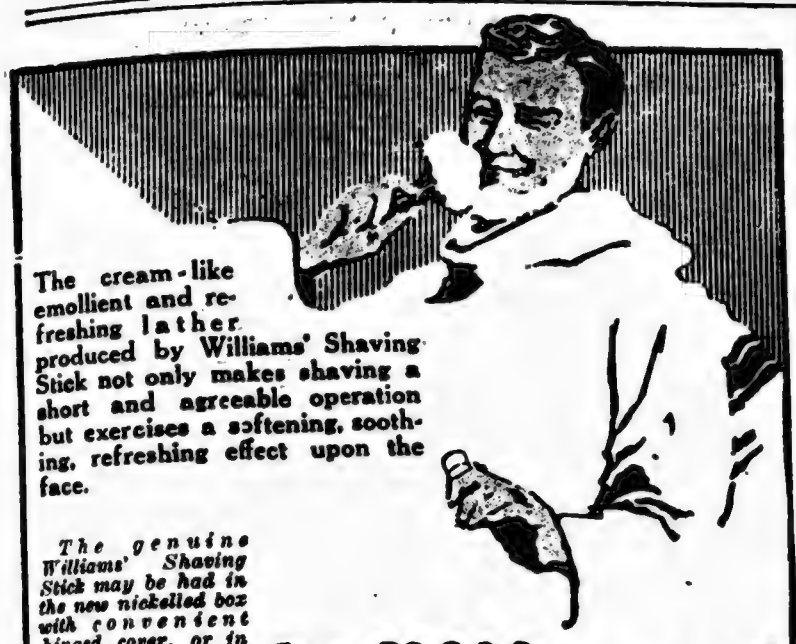
All of Which has been Done Before.

And after the Honey-Moon, he Suddenly Discovered that he had not Married a Wife, but an Ornament. For She could neither Cook nor Sew, nor Reap, nor Mow, and when he Was an-hungered She Offered to Play the Piano to him. So that he Had the Moonlight Sonata for Breakfast, a Game of Tennis for Tea, and Sacred Solos for Supper.

This began to Get Tiresome, and just Before the Man Died of Starvation, he Brained his Wife with the Copper-Lid.

All of Which has been Done Before.

MORAL: Do not Judge the Cigars by the Picture on the Box.



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1	Ladies' White Muslin Overall (well made)	2	5½
1	Pair Ladies' Black Glacé Kid Gibson Shoes (laced or button)	4	11
6	Ladies' Hemstitched White Handkerchiefs	1	0
6	Gents' Hemstitched White Handkerchiefs	1	6
2	Ladies' White Nightdresses	5	6
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Space will not allow for full description of every article, but we know they give the best of satisfaction possible.

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EAVESDROPPING AT THE 'PHONE.

By Our Pet Hello Girl.

DISUNION IN THE UNION.

"Hallo. . . . Hallo! . . . Is that the National Union of Women Workers? . . . What? . . . Oh, it *is*. . . . Who is speaking?—Mrs. Allan Bright? . . . How do you do, Mrs. Bright? . . . I'm Mrs. Humphry Ward."

"*So* pleased to speak with you, Mrs. Ward. . . . *How* are you? . . . Isn't the weather simply *dreadful*? . . . I've positively got a chilblain on my hee——"

"*So* sorry. . . . Wretched things, aren't they? . . . By the way, you were in the chair the other night when a resolution was passed calling upon the Government to extend the franchise to women, were you not?"

"Yes, dear. . . . A most enthusiastic meeting. . . . Mrs. Creighton and Mrs. Fawcett spoke splendidly, dear things! . . . And the resolution was carried by 199 to 59."

"I'm not a bit interested in the figures. . . . I'm only surprised that you, as chairman, permitted such a resolution to be put. It was, in my opinion, a grave dereliction of duty on your part. You know very well that the National Union of Women Workers was not——"

"I don't think I need to be instructed in the duties of chairman by *you*, Mrs. Ward. The huge majority by which the resolution was carried was a sufficient vindication of my conduct, I should think."

"Don't be absurd! That only makes matters worse. If you had properly realised your responsibilities as chairman you would at once have ruled the resolution out of order. The National Union of Women Workers was not——"

"I think your remarks are quite uncalled for, Mrs. Ward. If some people I could name only realised their responsibilities as clearly as *I* do, this world would be a very much better——"

"That's not the point. . . You——"

"*Oh*, yes, it is. Surely, if any——"

"I say it is *not*!"

"It-*is*!"

"It is NOT! . . . The National Union of Women Workers was not founded to——"

"You mustn't think, Mrs. Ward, that because you are an 'anti,' the National Union must not express an opinion on so vital a question as Women's Suffrage, which is the only means of raising the status of——"

"Don't be so *absurd*! Those women who have gone about conducting themselves like harridans have lowered the status of women sufficiently already. Besides, the Union was not founded to meddle with——"

"Oh, that was seventeen years ago. . . . *Some* of us have advanced since that time, Mrs. Ward, if *others* have *not*. If *some* people like to stand still and continue to hug the depressing ideals of the early Victorian era, that is no reason why more intelligent and more progressive——"

"If you mean to insinuate that *I* am one of those who have stood still and hugged—er—whatever it was you said, I beg to inform you that you are very much mistaken. I *think* I am justified in saying that my mind is perfectly capable of keeping pace with the *best* modern ideas——"

"Of which Women's Suffrage is one."

"*Oh*, no, it is not! *Nothing* of the kind. It is simply a foolish craze that has caught a number of——"

"It is *quite* unnecessary for you to excite yourself, Mrs. Ward. The resolution has been passed, and sent to the proper quarter. The vast majority of the members have expressed their conviction that the vote is——"

"Then I shall have nothing more to do with it."

"I *dare* say the Union will survive your defection, Mrs. Ward, although, of *course*, it has always considered itself *highly* honoured in having one *so famous* as yourself among its members. Will you ring off, or shall I?"

"I think you are a *very* RUDE WOMAN, Mrs. Bright. I am not accustomed to being spoken to in such a dis——"

"*Good* day; I hope your next book will be a *great* success."

"I should be *ashamed* to speak in such a——"

(*Ting-a-ling-a-ling!*)

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Mlle. Charlotte Sirier.

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Hundreds of women are using this plan privately, at home. They are working on, what seems to me, a very sound theory, viz., that the sallow, faded outer complexion should be actually removed. It is hopelessly stained and wrinkled by years of exposure, poor soaps, cosmetics, etc. It only stifles the fresh, vigorous and beautiful young skin underneath, which is waiting to be revealed and to show its youthful beauty.

For this purpose these women simply use a little good jettaline, such as may be obtained at the apothecaries. About 3s. 6d. worth should be sufficient. They apply it for a few nights, like cold cream, in order that it may absorb the ugly and lifeless outer complexion. Good jettaline is not at all an unpleasant substance, and the results obtained from this ingenious plan are most remarkable.

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To Ellis Griffith, Esq., M.P., Under Secretary of State to the Home Department.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a newspaper paragraph concerning the report of an inquest touching the death of a three-year-old child at Southwark consequent upon a flannelette garment taking fire. At the inquest Mr. Coroner Waldo is reported to have said that "Mr. McKenna had been asked to have a clause inserted in the Merchandise Marks Act referring to the sale of flannelette, but the Government seem too busy with controversial matters. About 90 per cent. of poor people's children wore flannelette because it was cheap and warm, and there were about 600 fatal accidents annually in England and Wales."

I have not been able definitely to verify the statement of this outspoken Coroner, but I am informed that a few days ago an influential deputation waited upon you, consisting of such persons as Prof. Howard Marsh, Mr. Theodore Taylor, M.P., Sir Lauder Brunton, Sir Ernest Clark, Dr. T. N. Kelynack, and others, with a view to establishing a means whereby these young lives might be saved to the nation. The wish of the deputation was, that it should be rendered illegal to describe as safe any material which would not conform to some standard test, and I must express my keen disappointment that you, whilst agreeing that "it was the duty of the Legislature to lessen this loss of life, especially when it was practicable to do something," added that "the Home Office were advised that it was *impracticable* to deal with the matter by an Amendment of the Merchandise Marks Act," and that "there was also considerable difficulty about a standard test which could be set up for legislative purposes." Do you really mean to tell me that it is quite impracticable to deal with a matter which is costing me an average of two young lives every day? I shall want these little lives later on.

JOHN BULL.

To Sir Fortescue Flannery, M.P., House of Commons.

DEAR SIR,—I write to commiserate with you on the painful shock you received last week when you went down to Bolton to support the Unionist candidate at the bye-election, and to express the hope that no untoward effects have resulted to your health and spirits. It appears that upon arrival you directed your steps to the wrong meeting. Making your way to the platform, you were charmed to receive a hearty ovation from the crowded audience. In the midst of your triumph, even at the moment when the conscious blush of gratified pride suffused your cheek, you noticed with horror that the chairman was wearing a red tie, instead of the cerulean tint that is the symbol of Truth in the Bolton district. Realising instantly into what unholy company you had strayed, you rose to the occasion, and from your seat, and fled the scene, to seek the purer atmosphere of the Tory gathering. You will find yourself in the wrong division lobby next, if you are not careful.

JOHN BULL.

To George Staden, Agent and Rent Collector, Upcerne Road, Chelsea.

SIR,—Your callous brutality to Mrs. Tallett was not too severely punished by the fine of £5 and £15 costs. You had already served her with Notice to Quit when her baby arrived. Two days after the child's birth you burst open the front door, forced your way into the woman's bedroom with such violence as to knock over an attendant with a child in her arms, stripped the clothes from the bed in which the mother was lying, and in doing so uncovered the new-born infant, threw at her a second Notice to Quit, and then threatened her that if she were not out in a week you would put her into the street. That, sir, is the woman's story, which, in my view, as in that of the magistrate, is more credible than yours. To be candid, I believe hardly a word you said, and if there be any possible chance of this woman maintaining a civil action against you for any part of your disreputable and monstrous proceedings not covered by this prosecution, I trust she will take it.

JOHN BULL.

To James Watson, Esq., Waterworks Engineer, Bradford.

DEAR MR. WATSON,—Having carefully perused the correspondence which has passed between yourself and Messrs. Henry Heaton and Co., of West Bowling, this is to certify that when I receive my next load of hard-baked biscuits you are entitled to first claim on same.

Messrs. Heaton, perceiving a fearful fire near their premises, and being afraid that it would presently devour the whole city, attached a hose to a street hydrant owned by the Corporation and poured on the monster a stream of cold water to cool its heated brain. Having taken the conflagration by the forelock, they telephoned for the fire brigade to come along and help, but by the time it arrived the roaring tongues of flame were hissing in impotent fury 'neath the lusty lash of the *aqua pura*, and the city had been saved from incineration and ruin. There is no doubt that in the course of these unauthorised proceedings Messrs. Heaton carelessly spilled some of the water of which you are in official charge. Indeed, it was noticed by spectators that at least a bucketful trickled from a small defect in the hose, while a jugful, at least, oozed out of the hydrant connection and wet the pavement in three places.

In these circumstances, my dear sir, I can easily understand that, as the Waterworks Engineer, you felt you must be up and doing. It is true you were neither up nor doing while the misappropriated water poured on the unwarrantable fire, but when all was over you rose to the occasion with a rapidity of official initiative and a delicacy of literary touch unequalled in the annals of municipal life. You seized your pen and rushed at these quenchers of flames as though it were a threatening sword. You said you had heard a rumour to the effect that there had been a fire at a shop near the firm's works, and you had received news from the front that they had attached a hose to a street hydrant and turned on the water, with the object of putting out the blaze. You added that it had been reported to you that some of the water had slipped and was irretrievably lost; and, finally, you warned them that if they wanted to escape the utmost rigour of the law they had better commence to explain their callous conduct instanter.

Your talents are undoubtedly lost as a Waterworks Engineer; you ought to be in charge of the Red Tape Department of the War Office. Accept the assurance of my dumbfounded astonishment.

JOHN BULL.

To Sir John Bell, The Guildhall, London.

DEAR SIR JOHN,—I was amused to read the other day that when one James Harris was brought before you, charged with smashing the window of a jeweller's shop and throwing handfuls of jewellery among the passing crowd, you expressed surprise that so few people were honest enough to return what came into their hands, only £15 14s. worth having been voluntarily restored out of the £553 value of rings, chains, and other gewgaws that were scattered about. In view of your police-court experience, your innocent belief in the virtue of the man in the street was refreshing, and I am sorry it has been so rudely shattered. It seems that, notwithstanding the activities of the various churches and sects, the spread of education, and the past few years of Liberal Government, humanity remains much the same as it was in Shakespeare's day, when to be honest, as this world went, was to be one man in ten thousand. So few people care to be singular, you know.

JOHN BULL.

Archbishop of Canterbury, Lambeth Palace.

Not surprised Lower House Convocation recommend deletion words "All men are liars" from service Churching of Women. They do not wish the clergy to reveal their infirmities in the presence of ladies.

BULL.

Kamil Pasha, Grand Vizier, Turkey.

Got the hump?

BULL.

Mr. Justice Phillimore, Royal Courts Justice, London.

Noted your statement that you have never been total abstainer except at rare intervals. Good judge.

BULL.

"Bullets"—the STRAIGHT Competition.

A DIFFICULT PASSAGE.

("The ship will find her way with a full cargo into the desired haven."—Mr. ASQUITH, at Nottingham.)

ASQUITH: "We're a bit overloaded, Lloyd, but I think we shall pull through all right."
LLOYD GEORGE: "I hope so. *(Aside.)* **Anyway, I shall!"**

POTTED POLITICAL PANTOS.

By Walter Moore.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT: OR, HOW LONG?

Scene: *The House of Commons.*

Chorus of Party Leaders:
Let us for once forget we are divided,
And give ourselves to mirth and jollity,—
Although our labours are by some derided,
We smile, because we get the L.S.D.!
The folk who take the trouble to elect us
Believe, poor fools! that we their servants are;
And we let them go on thinking
What they please, while we are winking
At the idea of Democracy, ha, ha!

Liberal Leader:
My party is, perhaps, as soft as any,
The one that's gulled most easily by far;
All: Ha, ha!

Liberal Leader:
For in the name of Freedom
Of their Liberty we bleed 'em
And dragoon them till they don't know where they are.
All: Ha, ha!
He dragoons them till they don't know where they are!

Liberal Leader:
Each week we make them pay to the Exchequer
A portion of their wages, don't you see;
To me, the way they stand it is a licker,
And another side-light on Democracy,
All: Ha! ha!
Another side-light on Democracy!

Tory Leader:
My followers are nearly as bad
As your tame crowd, young fellow me lad;
I find it easy to keep them warm
By telling the tale of Tariff Reform;
And when that palls a bit, I fill
Their ears by denouncing the Home Rule Bill.
"You're ruled by Redmond!" I shout with glee,
And watch them squirm indignantly;
"Will you submit to the Irish yoke?"
I cry, and laugh till I nearly choke:
And that is the way that we beguile
The blind Conservative rank and file:
For we're all of us smudged with the same old tar
And prey on Democracy, ha, ha, ha!
All: Ha, ha, ha!
We prey on Democracy, ha, ha, ha!

Labour Leader:
My followers, I must confess,
Take rather more controlling;
But I've succeeded, none the less,
In guiding them when polling;
They still elect me to the House,
To sit below the bar,
To legislate for Labour, Oh!
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!
All: He legislates for Labour! Oh!
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

Chorus:
We *seem* so, but in fact we're not divided—
Each rules his section of Democracy;
And when our actions are by some derided,
We smile, because *we* get the L.S.D.!
The folk who take the trouble to elect us
Believe that we the people's spokesmen are;
And we let them go on thinking
What they please, while we are winking
At the notion of Democracy, ha, ha!
At the fiction of Democracy, ha, ha!

[Curtain.]

PREDICTIONS FOR 1913.

THE MAN OF MYSTERY WHO MANUFACTURES FATE.

By Richard Morton.

The man who makes the penny almanacs was hard to find. He was not to be discovered at the British Museum, Maskelyne and Devant's, the Agapemone, the Adelphi Arches, Kensington Gardens, nor in any other similar abode of mystery where he might be expected to hang out his cabbalistic sign.

He was tracked down at last in a West End restaurant, doing himself well at lunch. He was not at all the sort of person one expected to see; he wore no long beard or magician's gown; his skin was not wrinkled, or his hair white. He was just a fat, jolly-looking little fellow, not at all old, and not at all mysterious.

"Oh, yes," he said, in answer to an enquiry; "I'm the chap you want, right enough. But business is over for this year. That's why I am taking it easy—got nothing else to do, so I can afford to."

"I expected to find you deep in study."

"Deep in nonsense!" he retorted. "What have I to study? All my almanacs are out and selling like hot cakes, every penny one of them."

"But surely your predictions for next year must lead you to take a serious view of life?"

"Not at all," he said. "Next year doesn't make me feel any more serious than this year did. You see, it's like this. All I have to predict is just what is sure to occur, and I draw the pictures accordingly. Of course the British Lion must be in the picture, and he faces either a Bear or an Eagle, or both. That works both ways; they are not fighting, so there won't be a fight. If there is a fight, why, isn't the picture there showing 'em facing each other in readiness? Of course it is; that is the art of prophesy—according to the penny almanacs."

"I see. But it looks rather like Mr. Facing-both-Ways."

"We have to, or else who would believe us? Besides, we have to please everybody, and it is not hard to do it, when you know how. I've put a picture of a shipwreck in 1913. Sure to be one, isn't there? That will make my prediction come true. I had a shipwreck picture for 1912 also, and the *Titanic* went down. Wasn't I clever? Couldn't I see into the future?"

He chuckled, and sipped a little wine.

"Look at these pictures for next year. See that explosion? What is it? A colliery, a factory, arsenal, or what? Isn't it delightfully dubious? But there's sure to be an explosion somewhere next year, so I'm safe as houses. Look here again; that's an earthquake. No year passes without several earthquakes; mine's one of 'em, pick 'em out and take your choice. And notice this terrific storm picture, lightning and all sorts of things; do you say it won't happen? Of course it will. See here again, a house on fire; people jumping from the building, heroic firemen, and so on. Tell me when there was a year when that picture would not fit? I'm sorry to say it is always up to date."

"But it seems to me you are merely exploiting the obvious."

"That is where my art comes in. To exploit the obvious, to deal out generalities so that customers may fit them to particular cases is the art of the prophet and the soothsayer. His genius consists in knowing what always happens and dressing it up to look extraordinary. That is why some corners of my pictures have such grotesque figures and symbols in them."

"But what do they mean?"

"Goodness knows; I don't. They are only the decorations, the trappings. The prime thing is the centre design, like this one, of men on strike. When some strike comes on next year, all my customers will say, 'How true!'"

"You have a deep knowledge of human nature, whatever you know of the future. Tell me what are your *real* predictions for next year?"

"Next year," he repeated; "next year will see for all of us glad days and sad days, some happiness and some sorrow. Further than that, no human eye can see. But we can all hope that the glad days and the happiness may predominate for all of us!"

Have you won a "John Bull" Turkey? See page 746.

This is the time of year when everyone is contemplating either re-decorating or re-furnishing, and a visit of inspection to our premises, will be a great assistance to you. We are one of the largest complete house furnishers in the world, our Showrooms covering over 45,000 feet. Special departments are devoted to Linens, China, Glass, Cutlery, Ironmongery, Pianos, and all Kitchen requisites.

Dainty Easy Chair, with good quality inner upholstery and springs covered in a variety of Cretonnes to customers' choice. **£2 5 0**

Elegant Sideboard, designed on Queen Anne lines, and constructed from figured oak, with quarterings on panels and door fronts; the handles are finished antique brass, and the shaped mirror, widely bevelled. **£11 11 0**

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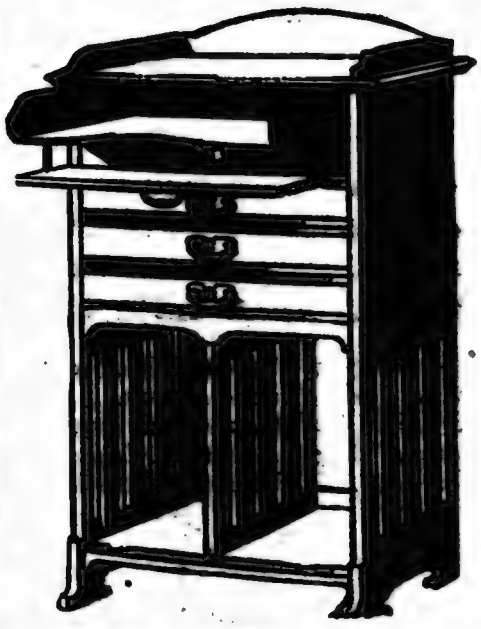

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ANYTHING TO OBLIGE.

"Please, muvver wants a pound o' sausages, an' she says will yer put in twelve ter th' pound?"

"Yus, me little dear, an' give my compliments to yer ma, an' if she'll send back the skins I'll refill 'em for 'er."

A PECKHAM LADY'S £100 PRIZE.

MRS. MANN TELLS HOW THE SUCCESSFUL BULLET WAS CAST.

Mrs. Mann, the winner of our fifth "Bullets" Competition, was overjoyed when the cheque was handed to her. Living at Peckham with her husband, a clerk, the successful effort was really a joint affair, they finding the task of compiling a catchy, clever solution an exceedingly agreeable—and, as it proved, profitable—pastime. They are particularly fond of the competition "as it gives such a wide scope for ideas," and they have, therefore, entered each week. It is noteworthy that before winning the present handsome cheque they had been awarded two consolation prizes. In the modest circumstances of Mr. and Mrs. Mann, the money will come in very useful, especially as a little daughter arrived five months ago, for whom it will now be possible to put by a nest-egg. In common with all our winners—and, we are happy to think, our other competitors—Mrs. Mann thinks our system of twice reading coupons very desirable, as "a good idea is apt to be overlooked if it only receives one cursory glance."

A TERRIER'S GROUSE.

A member of a Gosport unit of Territorials complains that he completed eight days' training with a Regular unit in September last, but cannot get paid by his Colonel. This officer's explanation of the matter is that he has asked the War Office to remit, but cannot obtain a reply. We strongly advise our correspondent to take out a County Court summons against the Secretary of State for War.

KEEPING HIS HEAD ABOVE WATER.

(*"Lots of people regard the Archbishop of York and me as two rich bachelors with £10,000 a year. . . . I don't know how the Archbishop is, but I cannot do more than keep my head above water and do my duty towards the great multitude who look to me for help."*—Bishop of London, at the Church Congress.)

He lives within a palace (though his Master did not so
When dwelling on this earth in human form long years ago).
He only has himself to keep—no wife, or son, or daughter—
So finds it hard, of course, to hold his head above the water!

Ten thousand golden ones a year suffice not to provide
For his few wants (he gives, I know, to charity beside),
But spent he less on maintenance of so much brick and mortar,
Less hard would be the keeping of his head above the water.

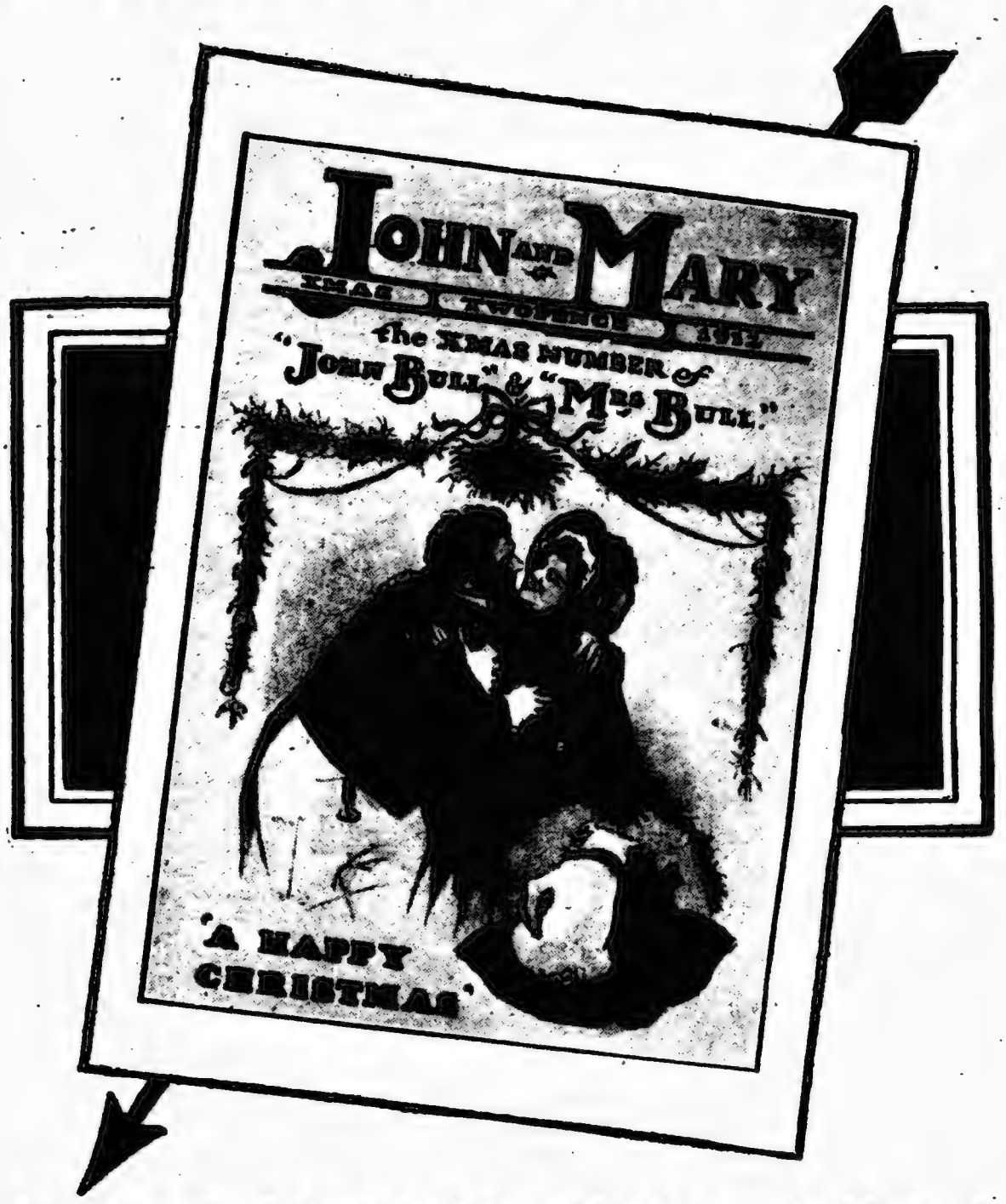
He knows not quite how things pan out with York's Archbishop true;
But, seeing that his income is ten thousand yearly too,
And that he likewise ne'er has led a lady to the "slaughter,"
He, too, must find it hard to keep his head above the water.

How foolish, then, those people are who look on them as rich!
They're grovelling in poverty, they're struggling in the ditch;
But, maybe, they'll do better when they marry Maud or Alice,
Who'll swell the merry butchers' bills that roll in to the palace!

CLAUDE GREENING.

Sixpence may win you £200. See page 748.

A DAY TO LOOK FORWARD TO



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THE FUTILITY OF CERTAIN LAWS.

By A. F. Millar.

Generally speaking, Government-made laws are for the protection of the weak against the strong; and to justify their existence they ought to do for the individual what he cannot do for himself, or do it better than he can do it himself. Tried by this test, in what a quaint light do most of our laws appear!

The Law of Murder.

Let us take, as an example, the law as it relates to the crime of murder. The object of such a law is, one supposes, to prevent murder. That it does not attain this object is obvious. The law against murder is, of course, based on the Biblical maxim, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth"; but as this injunction, in its naked barbarity, scarcely harmonises with our modern professions of humanity, we smooth it over by basing the necessity for its retention upon its alleged deterrent effect. And what is that worth? In murder less than in any other crime is the perpetrator influenced by fear of the penalty. No sentiment is more deeply implanted in human nature than that of repugnance to taking another human creature's life; and, therefore, where this repugnance is overcome, the desire to kill must be so strong as to make even the certainty that the murderer's own life is forfeit of no weight as a deterrent. And that there *is* no such certainty we all know. Many murderers are never even brought to trial. And where they are, no verdicts are more of a toss-up than those of juries in murder trials

An Absurd Anomaly.

Perhaps the absurdest anomaly in the legal method of dealing with murder is that, while there is no crime which varies more widely in degree of culpability, there are no degrees of severity in the punishment for different cases of murder. On the other hand, murder, if committed on a sufficiently extensive scale, escapes not only without penalty, but even without incurring general opprobrium—as where lives are sacrificed in mines, factories and dangerous trades, and on railways, owing to inadequate precautions; through adulteration of food; and by lying patent-medicine advertisements; and murder by motor-car is, of course, a venial offence. And, finally, let us remember that the death penalty is the only punishment which is wholly irrevocable.

There are some who hold that it is right for society, apart from any motive of deterrence, to *revenge* itself upon a criminal. It may be conceded that the sentiment of revenge is instinct in human nature; but whether or no an individual human being may at any time justifiably give vent to such a sentiment, society should and need be swayed by no such ignoble motive.

An Alternative Remedy.

We thus arrive at the conclusion that our legal method of dealing with the crime of murder is useless as a deterrent and ethically indefensible. But it may be said that society must be protected; and that the usual alternative to hanging—penal servitude for life—is dreaded more than death. It may well be doubted whether such a preference is as common among condemned murderers as is generally supposed; but even if it were, it requires some hardihood to maintain that the desire for death on the part of an individual justifies another individual in killing him. It will be granted that nothing can *prevent* murder, short of locking up all potential murderers for life—which would mean the permanent incarceration of most, if not all, of the human race. Why, therefore, should society support elaborate and expensive machinery for attempting the impossible?

If society cannot protect the individual, it should at least permit the individual to protect himself. And here we are brought up by that hoary old dogma which the free-born Briton, with pathetic trust, learns to repeat from his cradle upwards—"You must not take the law into your own hands." The free-born one does not see that this is a euphemism for "You must not take the law out of the lawyers' hands"—nor, it might be added, their hands out of your pockets. And so long as lawyers, in one capacity, make the laws which, in another capacity, they are to administer, we shall have this impertinent prohibition. Do away with it, and leave each individual to protect his own life or to avenge that of his friend, and the result would be a nearer approach to justice.

Is Balzac Immoral?

An Unexpurgated Edition published in English.

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Fortunately, however, the publication is now an accomplished fact. For, though the prurient-minded may see wrong where none is meant—and Balzac certainly did write of Nature as he found it—it would have been a thousand pities if the public had been deprived of this its first chance of reading Balzac as he meant to be read.

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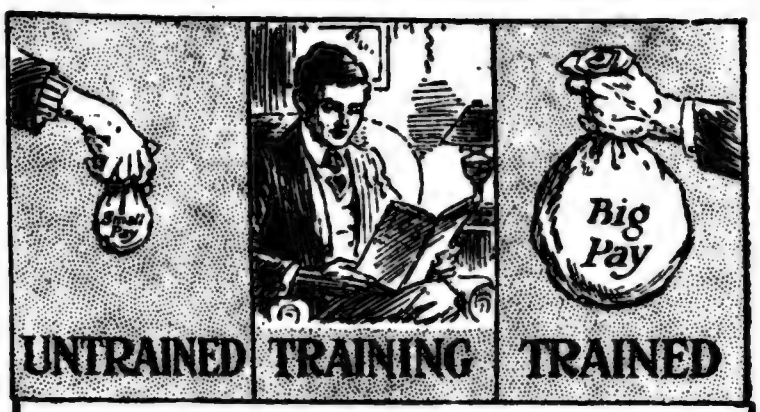

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Are you driven mad by the incessant itching of eczema? Is your face disfigured by spots or angry-looking pimples? Have you a bad leg that seems as if it never would get better? Have you been to doctors, hospitals, and tried one so-called remedy after another without result, until now you can't believe cure is possible? If that's how you feel, seize the opportunity of trying Antexema free. Antexema gives instant relief, and quickly works a thorough cure. You are not asked to spend money in testing Antexema. The risk is ours, but, as a matter of fact, Antexema is bound to stop the itching, give you restful sleep, start your cure, and rid you of your complaint.

Accept offer and you will be grateful the rest of your days. Start your cure at our expense, and if you keep your eczema, face spots, your bad leg or hands, inflamed pimples, or an irritating rash, it is not our fault. You can be cured, and we are anxious to start your cure now.

Do your duty to your skin. Go to any chemist or stores to-day and get a bottle of Antexema. Boots Cash Chemists, Army and Navy, Civil Service Stores, Harrod's, Selfridge's, Whiteley's, Parke's, Taylor's Drug Stores, and Lewis and Burrows', supply it at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per bottle, or direct, post free, for 1s. 3d. and 2s. 9d. Also in India, Australasia, Canada, South Africa, and throughout Europe.

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To ANTEXEMA, CASTLE LABORATORY, LONDON, N.W.

Please send me booklet, "Skin Troubles," for which I enclose three penny stamps, also Free Trial of Antexema and Antexema Soap.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

JOHN BULL, 30-11-12. .....

BEHIND THE SCENES.

By M. Clement Scott.

"The Price!" What a drama! Not precisely cheerful, but brimful of the most thrilling situations, which had they been realised at the Aldwych Theatre would assuredly have aroused universal admiration. George Broadhurst has elicited many laughs from London audiences with his witticisms, and now Miss Fannie Ward has presented the author's serious side to us, and I regret to say it is not the dramatist who is "wanting" in his effort to get there, but the actors who fail in their endeavour to grasp Mr. Broadhurst's intense meaning. It is no use attacking powerful drama in kid gloves; you must take them off and grip for all you are worth. "The Price" is underacted. Ethel Toscani is a character that would have suited Sarah Bernhardt in her younger days.

Another Stanley Houghton play, and what an exceedingly clever one it is! "Hindle Wakes" was fine, but I like "The Younger Generation" at the Haymarket even better. Rather cute of Frederick Harrison to engage Miss Ada King, whose performance as the mother is simply delightful. Don't think enough of either Locke's work or Lord Dunsany's "Golden Doom" to warrant the appearance of these two playlets in the Haymarket programme.

Marie Tempest is giving a highly interesting series of matinées at the Prince of Wales' Theatre. She is just ripping as the Irish lass in "An Imaginary Conversation," by Norreys Connell, and absolutely "it" as a Pierrot in Lewis-Kanson's wordless comedy. For pure pantomime and exquisite gest Marie Tempest is a perfect marvel. Without song, she has proved herself to be an actress of the *tippest toppest* rank; and now, without words, she has established herself as a mime of the most extraordinary description. I have seen French, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and every other nation's pantomimists of the first order, but Marie Tempest heads the list by a long way. Marie, you're a little wonder!

A jolly good little sketch has started at the Chelsea Palace this week, called "Biff." When I tell you it is being played by our one and only Lottie Venne, supported by Keinsey Peile, by whom the piece is written, you may guess it is no "dud" thing.

A real live "Lord" called the other day upon an actress whose little daughter was present at the time. Noticing the servants addressing the gentleman as "My lord" this and "My lord" that, the small prayer-learned child pondered a bit, and after the visitor had departed asked her mother with great solemnity, "Mummy, was that God?" Where's Helen Mar? That's rather a nice story to add to her collection!

TOO EAGER!

A TEMPTATION TO BE RESISTED.

Two country readers who have unfortunately recently had financial troubles which necessitated the publication of their names in the *London Gazette* and of a journal which records judgments, have received practically identical letters from a man signing himself "J. Henry Vagg, Accountant," and giving his address as Imperial Buildings, Ludgate Circus, E.C., suggesting that he can arrange a loan of £100 for 12 months at a reasonable rate of interest, but the borrower must deposit six months' interest down in advance as an earnest of good faith. He states that if the loan is not completed, he will return the amount in full. So eager is Mr. Vagg to get the six months' interest at once, that he in one case within a few hours followed the posting of his letter with a telegram: "Send telegraph order immediately. Business waiting."

He was nearly as urgent in the other case, as upon his first request for money by wire being ignored, he the next day sent another letter pleading for the amount, followed by an even more urgent appeal.

Vagg's office is a small one on the fourth floor. When our representative paid it a visit he found it closed and a written notice outside the door, reading, "Put your name in the letter-box."

A FREE PRESCRIPTION THAT IS WORTH FIVE GUINEAS.

"I FULLY ENDORSE WHAT OTHERS SAY OF IT."

A lady's thanks: "If you had suffered from severe headache with Neuralgia and Neuritis as I have done, you would be equally grateful for information that was the means of curing me, especially as it was free. I fully endorse every word others have written of this wonderful prescription. If such information was always given to the public gratis, what a blessing it would be to many sufferers from chronic pain.

"The prescription can be filled by any chemist. Ask yours for 60 grains of Kephaldol in tablet form. Instant relief will be obtained by taking two tablets, and one at intervals of an hour will soon cure your pain, whether in the nerves or of rheumatic origin. It's guaranteed to do this."

The dinner gong

sounds gladly in the ear of the man who has a good appetite.

Good Mustard, freshly made, not only sharpens the appetite, but enhances the flavour of meat; and materially assists the digestion and assimilation of the food. Enjoy your meals by helping yourself to Mustard.

Colman's D.S.R Mustard

S.H.S.

STUPENDOUS BARGAINS!!!

I sell the very best Gramophones in the world at HALF SHOP PRICES! To prove this I will send on Seven Days' FREE APPROVAL a superbly finished

GRAMOPHONE,

with solid oak cabinet of All-British manufacture, measuring 13½ ins. by 13½ ins. by 9½ ins., handsome 20 in. horn, extra powerful motor, and GUARANTEED FOR FIVE YEARS. This instrument is well worth every penny of £4 4/-, MY PRICE is only 45/- cash, or with 12 double-sided 2/6 records of any good make (24 tunes of your own selection), for

ONLY 4/6 DEPOSIT,

and 9 monthly instalments of 7/11. ALL the best Gramophones and records, including PATHÉ, ZONOPHONE, JUMBO, ROSEYPHONE, COLUMBIA-RENA, EDISON, HIS MASTER'S VOICE, etc., supplied. Cheaper Gramophones from 12/6 cash or 2/6 monthly. Test the instruments and records for seven days in your own home. If you are not absolutely satisfied return them to me at my expense and I will refund deposit in full. Write for list—my prices will astound you.

CHAS. T. ROBEY, Ltd., THE WORLD'S PROVIDER (Dept. 47) COVENTRY.

GRAVES BEDSTEADS

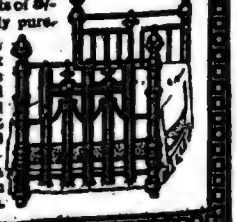
This handsome Full-size Brass and Iron Bedstead entirely new in design of noble proportions, and beautifully finished in every detail. 6ft. 6in. by 4ft. 6in. Delivered direct from the Factory, insured and carriage paid to all approved orders for 5/- with order, and if considered entirely satisfactory when unpacked and examined, balance in eight monthly payments of 5/-

Graves Bedding is warranted sterilised and absolutely pure.

WRITE FOR OUR NEW BEDSTEAD CATALOGUE.

This handsome Art publication is the finest pattern book ever produced by the Bedstead industry, and contains the widest up-to-date choice of reliable and artistically designed Bedsteads for all purposes. Everything at keenest competitive prices and delivered subject to approval for easy monthly payment terms, or 2/- in the £ Cash Discount. All Graves Bedsteads are exclusive models and the last word in reliability of manufacture and perfection of design.

5/- NOW.



J. G. GRAVES LTD. SHEFFIELD.

THE EFFECT OF ELECTRICITY ON THE HUMAN BODY.

A TALK ABOUT THE "AJAX" DRY-CELL BATTERY.

Amongst all the wonderful things for which the 20th century will be noted there will be nothing more remarkable than the sudden awakening of the world to the true significance of its most mystic force—Electricity. Whilst the greatest scientist is still unable to give any intelligent or intelligible definition of the nature or origin of the mighty current, the least learned is by now aware that, under proper control, it is capable of revivifying and vitalising all living things. A glimmering of this knowledge began to dawn upon the medical profession towards the close of last century, but its practical application to human ailments was retarded by two causes. First of all, anything like serious electric treatment in the consulting-room was handicapped by various considerations. Apart altogether from the question of expense, there was the time and trouble and inconvenience occasioned to both doctor and patient. This has been well described in one of the booklets issued by the British Electric Institute, of 25, Holborn Viaduct, London.

Electricity applied by a physician from his consulting-room battery is good. But it has its disadvantages. Among them is the fact that it requires time for a special visit to the doctor, and necessitates the disrobing of the patient in the doctor's consulting-room. It requires the time of the doctor, which is so valuable that it is often grudgingly given, wherefore very few physicians advocate electricity. The current from the ordinary doctor's battery is harsh and interrupted, entering the body with great discomfort to the patient; it is never applied for more than fifteen minutes at a time, therefore there is no chance for absorption of the strengthening power, which is the particular value of electrical treatment.

The second cause was the inevitable advent of the quack, with his "electric belts" and other non-scientific paraphernalia, which, though doing little harm—for no form of mild electricity *can* do the human body harm—really effected no actual cure of complaints arising from, or allied to, nervous poverty.

Even to-day there are several so-called batteries and other devices, forced upon the attention of the public by persistent advertising—with the result that many a sufferer who might find ready relief by the application of a genuine electric treatment turns away in disgust and mentally places all "remedies" in the same category.

It will therefore be seen that, given a genuine electric system of treatment, based upon sound, scientific principles, any institution catering for the twentieth-century disease of nervous failure should receive the hearty support of the public. We believe that in the "Ajax" Dry-Cell Body Battery of the British Electric Institute these conditions are fulfilled. Writing in JOHN BULL, six years ago, we said:—

> We are satisfied it (the "Ajax" Battery) is quite unlike the old belts, of which so much complaint was legitimately made, as it has a number of dry cells attached to it, which generate a practical current of electricity, the intensity of which is controlled by a switch. We have seen testimonials from doctors, some of whom themselves have derived benefit from the apparatus, and many more order it for their patients, while we are also convinced by written evidence that the Institute advises those whom such a battery would not benefit not to purchase one, but to consult ordinary medical men.

Nothing has since come to our knowledge to cause us to modify this view. On the contrary, our letter-bag constantly testifies to its correctness, whilst the Institute has from time to time submitted to us original letters of appreciation from all parts of the country.

As, however, we are constantly receiving enquiries as to the efficacy of the Battery, we instructed our representative to make a careful investigation into its merits. It was in these circumstances that our representative sought an interview with the manager of the Institute, who at once expressed his willingness to answer any questions.

"How," asked our representative, "were the curative claims of your Dry Cell Battery received by the medical profession in general?"

"We sent invitations to a large number of highly-qualified medical men, many of whom responded, and after applying the necessary tests, became enthusiastic advocates of the 'Ajax,' and have since prescribed our treatment to their patients with unvarying success. We demonstrated to their satisfaction that a continuous and even current was produced—a result never before attained by the old electric belts."

"But, did you satisfy the doctors that you were able to regulate the strength of the continuous current?" said our representative.

"By means of our dry cell battery which generates its own power without the use of some kind of acid, vinegar or other solution—the patient simply turns on the strength of the current he desires; and then experiences the pleasant sensation of a glowing warmth radiating from a strong volume of galvanic electricity. With our battery the regulation of the current is simplicity itself—and when the appliance is removed it is ready again to give out the same life-force the following day?"

"But," said our representative, "if these electric currents can be so finely regulated, would not the treatment be invaluable as a preventative to ill-health?"

"Of course it would," was the reply, "but you rarely come across people who trouble to undergo any course of treatment until the enemy appears. But the treatment would give greater resisting power against disease—and if people would only recognise that fact our batteries would be in universal demand. Like Othello's, the doctors' occupation would be gone; but we are too previous. No doubt you want to examine some of our testimonials from grateful patients."

The specialist here produced a voluminous mass of correspondence and invited our representative to pick out what he liked haphazard, and as we write we have before us upwards of a score of letters, all of recent date, from Southampton, Derby, Pulborough, Penrith, Bournemouth, Market Harborough, Merthyr Tydvil, Frodsham, West Ham, and other parts, all expressing thanks and gratitude for the benefits obtained.

Perhaps this is the most eloquent of all from a Derbyoster:—

> I again are sending you my photo with my donkey which I am glad that I am able to work with through the help from your Belt. I forget if I sent you a letter to thank you for the kindness you done for me, as I am very pleased as I shall now know how to thank you another time. You can use my photo as you like, as I hope it will help to get you many more to buy your Belts.

The various letters covered such divergent cases as Constipation, Neuritis, General Debility, Kidney Trouble, Indigestion, Rheumatism, Gout, Backache, Neurasthenia, Sciatica, and a variety of other complaints all traceable to the same root cause—impaired nervous energy.

We have, therefore, very much pleasure in reiterating our commendation of the Ajax Dry-Cell Battery and in recommending those of our readers who are suffering from any of the ailments mentioned above to communicate without delay with the British Electric Institute, 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

Bull's Eyes.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION :—

Did *all* the Bow belles support Lansbury?

Isn't Servia's "window" a poor look-out?

Isn't the Government rather a "sorry" one?

Will the Allies be prevented from "going too far"?

Have you "*banged* that saxpence" yet? See page 746.

Can the doctors cure Lloyd George's "indisposition"?

Isn't there a "collarer" epidemic *outside* Constantinople?

Isn't it time the theatrical managers were brought to "book"?

Why not leave the Sunday cinema question an "open" one?

Will the Traffic Combine carry passengers on philanthropic "lines"?

Isn't "a better show" what the London Opera House deserves?

* * *

MERELY RUMOURS :—

That the situation in Constantinople is still vacant.

That the Government thoroughly appreciated the cold snap.

That one of the taxi-cab companies will shortly pay a dividend.

That a woman has been found who doesn't put all the blame on the man.

That Mr. J. L. Garvin and Lord Northcliffe have been invited by the Powers to suggest a basis for Peace.

That Mr. Bottomley was given the credit in the Divorce Report for most of its suggestions—formulated by him in a Bill introduced into Parliament several years ago.

* * *

FANTASTIC DEFINITIONS :—

A lark—A musical rocket.

A flea—A hop merchant.

A zebra—A donkey born in a jersey.

A cauliflower—An aristocratic cabbage.

A match—A light-headed strike agitator.

A kiss—A smack on the ocean of Love.

An envelope—The letter's travelling dress.

A sneeze—Fireworks at the microbes' ball.

A robin—A sparrow with a college education.

A giraffe—A horse, with too much yeast in the neck.

A candle—A monument to the memory of darkness.

* * *

MORE RAPID REVIEWS :—

Life.—What a life!

The Reef.—Doesn't pan out very well.

The King's Signature.—Couldn't read it.

The Last Woman.—Too good to be true.

The Golden Bow.—Felt quite unstrung since reading it.

Muddling Through.—We don't like the author's method.

The Enlightenment of Sylvia.—Excellent reading. We now await the enlightenment of Christabel.

* * *

The way of the transgressor is undoubtedly hard—to miss.

* * *

"Hospital Refuses £6,000," we read. A record, surely!

* * *

Mordkin won a race recently. Simply waltzed home, no doubt.

* * *

It is stated that the kiss is no longer fashionable. We must give it a miss.

* * *

"Sinners" is the name of a forthcoming play. It is said to be very good.

* * *

"Invisible Aeroplanes," reads a heading. This must be the kind the War Office has been investing in.

* * *

Mr. Bourchier thinks the man of to-day is frivolous as a play goer. But can a modern play be taken seriously?

* * *

We are glad that the pantomime strike has been averted. Blacklegs in the ballet would have been a catastrophe.

* * *

An ostrich in South Africa is rearing a brood of ducklings. Nothing new. We often see a duck under ostrich plumes.

* * *

"English ladies never stop shopping," says Mme. Louie Latour. Married men say they do—an unconscionable time.

* * *

The telegraphic address of the six Suffragettes who marched from Edinburgh to Westminster should be "Walker, London."

* * *

The announcement, "The Booth line has advanced the wages of its officers by £1 a month," does *not* refer to the Salvation Army.

* * *

The proposal to place a group of statuary on the Admiralty Arch has been abandoned. Quite enough figures are represented there already.

"Skin Deep," a serial is called. Evidently not a very deep story.

* * *

We read of a book bound in gems. It is more usually the reverse.

* * *

Owing to the Insurance Act, washing is to cost more. On the collar again!

* * *

"How a Ghost was laid," we read. When the layer went to roost, we suppose.

* * *

A Budapest woman has not slept for seven years. We hope she isn't married.

* * *

Carol singer won a race at Leicester. It was the others who were left out in the cold.

* * *

"The Empty Hand,' is the title of a serial. Sounds as though there is nothing in it.

* * *

A Suffragette declares that they wish to get nothing by sex influence. They will get it.

* * *

A Gothic priory in France is to be used for pig breeding. It will still accommodate friars.

* * *

"Gambling in Piccadilly," reads a headline. Some queer cards can be picked up there.

* * *

In a case now being heard there are two and a half tons of documents. Weighty evidence.

* * *

"Statues for Sale," reads a headline. We hope none of them were damaged when knocked down.

* * *

The "Chicken Scratch" is the latest ragtime melody. We hope it does not contain any fowl language.

* * *

"Men are like shoes," says a contemporary. Yes, the smartest are always the most uncomfortable.

* * *

A French boxer is anxious to meet M. Maeterlinck. At the finish, we are wondering who will be the Blue Bird.

* * *

"Should Men Shop?" asks an evening paper. Well, some would find a counter-attraction in that way, no doubt.

* * *

"Jewels in a flower bed," we read. We have never heard a gardener call the stones found there by that name before.

* * *

Ladies' apparel in the fifteenth century was just as expensive as now, we are told. They were always "dear" creatures.

* * *

A woman who wears a big hat in a theatre is fined forty dollars in Athens. Greece always led the way in fine arts.

* * *

The burning of a library the other day afforded some of the books their first, and last, chance of being "eagerly devoured."

* * *

"I have never been, except for a short period, a total abstainer," says Mr. Justice Phillimore. What was his sentence?

* * *

A blind newspaper vendor was able to distinguish one paper from another by touch. There are, of course, degrees of dryness.

* * *

A bar of soap was included in a burglar's haul the other day. He doubtless thought it would help him to show a clean pair of heels.

* * *

At a concert in New South Wales a quartet of singers consisted of the minister, the doctor, the coroner, and the undertaker. Quite a glee-ful lot.

* * *

It is stated that many women mutilate fashion plates in the libraries. Whatever the ladies think, the authorities do not appreciate the cut.

* * *

"If writing had not been invented, humanity would have remained savage," says the Rev. Newton Marshall. But plenty of writing *now* makes us savage.

* * *

It is alleged that a doctor's consulting room in the West End is used at night for gambling. In the daytime, of course, it is patients—and other innocuous games.

* * *

A Chicago tramway company has provided posts in its cars to prevent strap-hangers from jostling each other. But they won't be as soft as some posts we know of.

Everybody's Wanting It—A "J. B." Xmas Turkey.

A "JOHN BULL" OFFER

SMART NEWSPAPER OFFER
A SUIT OR OVERCOAT 15/6

An enterprising newspaper recently inserted an advertisement offering a £5 note to the highest bidder, just to test the selling powers of the paper. Whilst the note was eventually disposed of for £4 10s., as anticipated by the paper, a huge number of applicants treated the offer, although perfectly genuine as a huge joke.

A well-known firm of wholesale clothiers, Messrs. H. B. THOMAS & Co., of 142, Grays Inn Road, London, W.C., are offering to make, just as an advertisement, a Gent's Complete Suit or well-made stylish overcoat to measure for only **15s. 6d.** Whilst this offer, which is made only to "John Bull" readers and is therefore termed a "John Bull" offer, is no less startling than the newspaper's offer of a £5 note, it is perfectly honest and made by a responsible firm.

The materials are good, which you can see before ordering as samples are offered free, and a guarantee is given that if not entirely satisfactory goods are given money is returned in full. Other prices: Suit or Overcoat, **19s. 6d., 23s. 6d.** and **30s.**

Send a post-card or call to-day for free patterns, measure chart and fashion sheet. Be sure and mention "John Bull" for, as explained, these **15s. 6d.** measure garments are essentially "John Bull" offers.

Suit or Overcoat 15/6

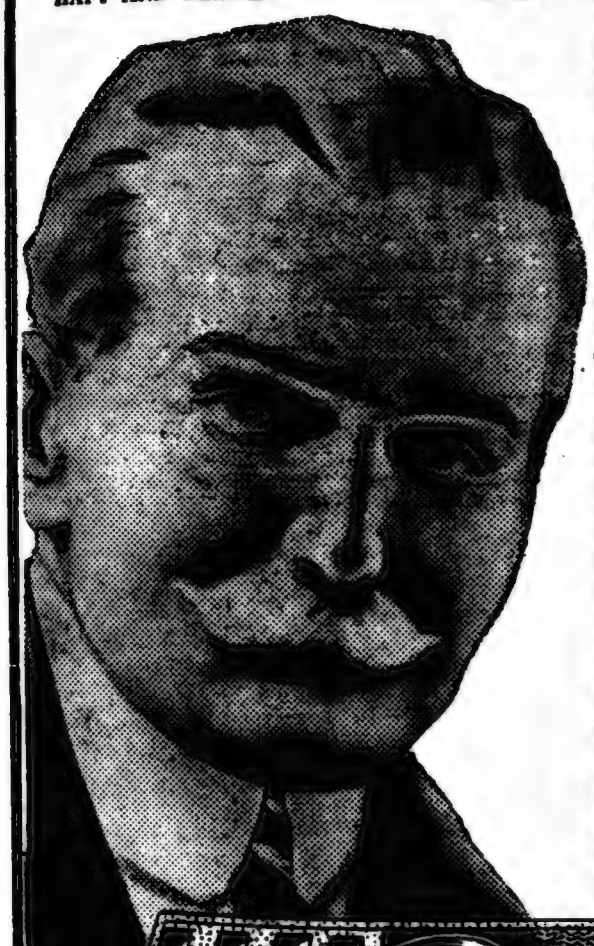
Advertising offer to "John Bull" readers

We realise that to make you a customer we *must* go one better than our competitors, and with this object we will make "John Bull" readers a complete suit or stylish overcoat for the absurdly low sum of **15s. 6d.** —*to measure too remember.*

Don't be sceptical. Realise that this is an *advertising offer absolutely*, and send us to day *merely a postcard* for large range of patterns, measure chart, and fashion sheet. The materials will bear the closest scrutiny—then we fit you to *your* satisfaction or refund money. Why say more! Can we do more? Mention suit or overcoat patterns and "John Bull" for when you see it there—IT IS SO.

H. THOMAS & Co., 142, Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.

"SHEFFIELD MADE, HAFT AND BLADE."



A TIP WORTH KNOWING

A well spread table is always TEN TIMES more attractive if the Cutlery and Spoons and Forks are perfectly matched and in good condition, instead of a shabby, blunt, loose-in-the-handle collection, such as may sometimes be seen even in good homes. The food always TASTES BETTER when carved with bright keen-bladed Table Tools, and your friends will feel vastly more complemented when invited to sit at a carefully arranged table, than they would if the impression was spoiled by slovenly Cutlery which has long since seen its best days. Our direct supply system will provide you with a beautiful Complete Sheffield Cutlery Service direct from the Factory, and our Easy Payment Terms enable you to spread the cost over Ten Months.

THIS BEAUTIFUL SERVICE is a triumph of Enterprise and Value and represents the result of many years' steady development in manufacturing methods. No one who knows the business will deny that the GRAVES COMPLETE SERVICE is the finest Cutlery offer in the world.

THE KNIVES are of Genuine Sheffield Steel of warranted temper and splendid finish. The handles are of ivory texture ivorette and are carefully matched in faithful reproduction of choicest African Ivory. **The Spoons and Forks** are manufactured from **Columbian Silver,** which is a hard white metal which bears a superfine polish indistinguishable from genuine sterling silver. It is unaffected by acid foods or exposure to air, and retains its lovely virgin white lustre under all conditions of wear. Every piece in the Service is exactly the same colour all through, and will look as well in fifty years' time as it does to-day. An ornament to any table in the land.

2/6 WITH ORDER.

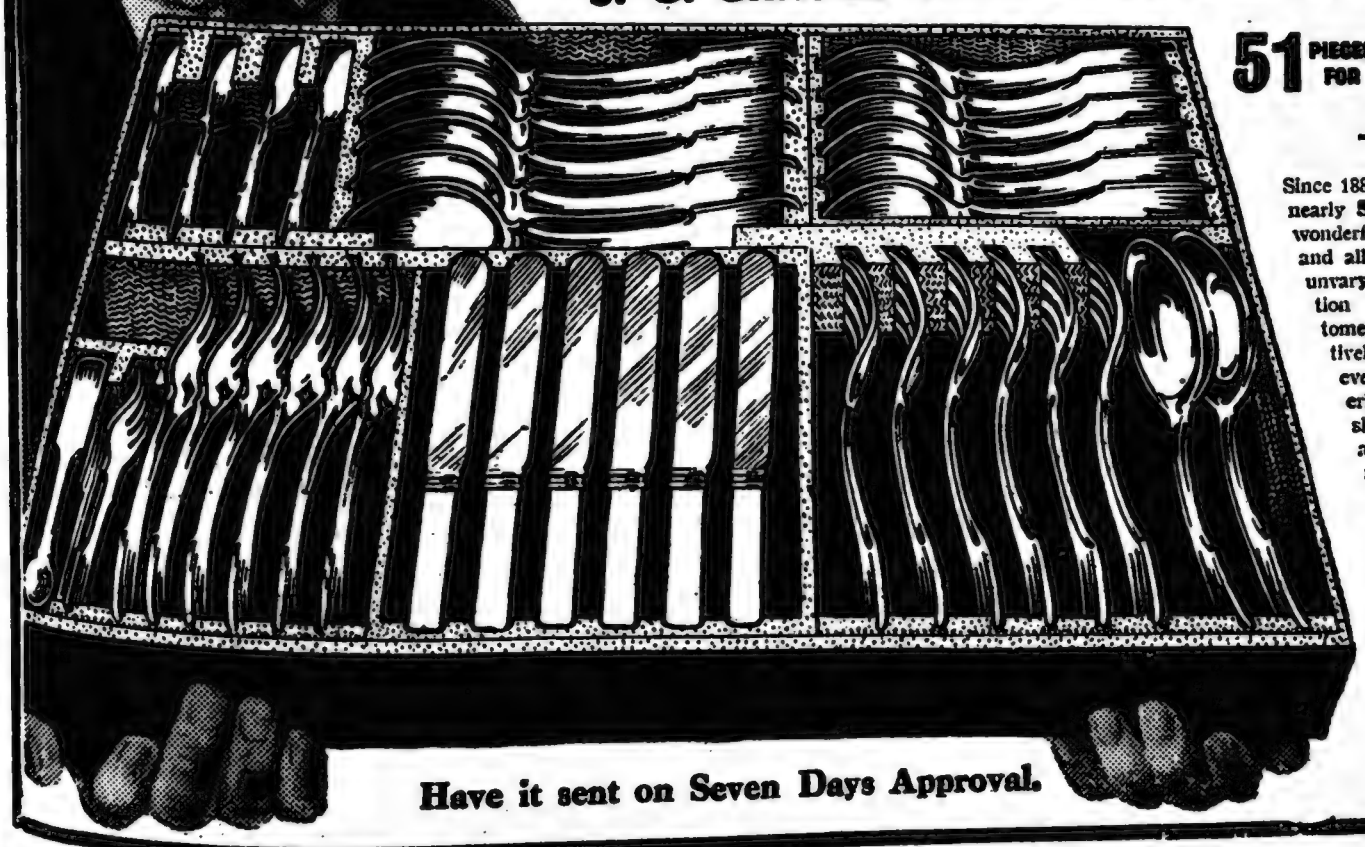
THE GRAVES COMPLETE SERVICE COMPRISES:

6 TABLE KNIVES	6 TEA SPOONS	1 SUGAR SPOON
6 TABLE FORKS	6 EGG SPOONS	1 SUGAR TONGS
6 DESSERT KNIVES	2 TABLE SPOONS	1 BUTTER KNIFE
6 DESSERT FORKS	1 SALT SPOON	1 PICKLE FORK
6 DESSERT SPOONS	1 MUSTARD SPOON	1 JAM SPOON

WE DELIVER this magnificent Complete Sheffield Cutlery Service, comprising 51 pieces without case, direct from the factory carriage paid to approved orders for **2/6** with order. Balance is payable in Nine Monthly Instalments of **2/6** If the goods are considered entirely satisfactory after full examination in your own home. If you are not completely satisfied and delighted, return the Service carriage forward and we will immediately refund your money in full without any deduction whatever.

WRITE TO-DAY FOR CATALOGUE POST FREE.
On receipt of a Postcard, we send our **Handsomely Illustrated Manufacturers' Catalogue** of Genuine Sheffield Cutlery and Electro-plate **Post Free** to your address. It shows a splendid variety of handsome designs in Cruets, Jam Dishes, Butter Coolers, Tea Services, Biscuit Jars, Flower Stands, and a multitude of elegant specialities for Presents, at economical prices, and on our convenient Easy Monthly Terms, **Ask for Catalogue M**

J. G. GRAVES LTD. SHEFFIELD.



51 PIECES FOR 25/-

Since 1887 we have sold nearly **500,000** of this wonderful speciality, and all the time with unvarying satisfaction to our customers. We positively guarantee every piece—material, workmanship and finish—and undertake to refund every penny of your money if you do not . . consider the goods entirely satisfactory in every way.

2/- in the £ Cash Discount.

Have it sent on Seven Days Approval.

John Bull's Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 744.

For Sporting Replies, see page 748.

"SHEPTON MALLET."—March 23rd, 1860, was the black day on which the Edtor was ushered into this wicked world.

MR. STICKNEY, in gratefully thanking "Sympathy" for his kind gift, tells us that he has recently had three weeks' employment, but his services have now been dispensed with. He gives us the further interesting information that his wife and the children were conveyed three miles through drenching rain by a soldier of the 6th Dragoon Guards in order that a mock court martial should have proof that a married woman had actually resided with her husband!

MR. G. LUFF, the Salvation Army "Star Chamber" victim, also thanks "Sympathy." The half-sovereign came in very handy, as nine weeks rent was in arrears. He tells us that he has not received any communication or help from the "Army" although they know his family's circumstances.

W. D. (Urmston) wishes us to award ourselves a "biscuit" for quoting a letter from an agent in Vienna containing the phrase: "I have been looking everywhere to hear something." W. D. must, however, remember that the words are not our own, and we should not be justified in altering them—besides which, we are self-sacrificing, and charitably give away all our biscuits to others.

W. B. (London, W.C.) sends us a post-card he has received from the Insurance Act officials, informing him that "on production of this card he is entitled to vote at the Local Office mentioned below, at the election of workmen's representatives for the panels for the Courts of Referees to which disputed claims for Unemployment Benefit under Part II. of the Act are to be referred." On the address side of the card has been stamped the words, "Day of voting, Saturday, November 16th, 1912," whilst the only address "mentioned below," is "Local Office of Issue, Finsbury"—of whose precise whereabouts our friend is ignorant. He and probably the bulk of the others entitled was, therefore, prevented from exercising his right. Such is the official way!

W. R. P. (Birmingham) wants to know whether many accidents happen through the breaking of the glass of the wind-screens of motor-cars, as he has thought of a remedy. We do not happen to have heard of any such mishaps.

E. G. (Ramsgate) has been having a dispute about the alleged indigestion of a millionaire, and argues that a man with money can always get cured. It would be just as reasonable to say that rich people never die. Anyhow, there is authority for saying that when they do die they find it difficult to reach heaven.

"ONE OF THE POOR" objects to the term "vagrant," but does it mean anything more offensive than "wanderer" or even "rambler"? The suggestion of beggary is only an afterthought.

A. W. L. (Richmond) tells us that he was suffering from an enlarged toe-joint, and became an out-patient to the Charing Cross Hospital. He says that he was ordered to wear special boots, for which he was measured, but when informed that they would cost £2 10s., he stated that he could not afford them, unless instalments would be accepted. The suggestion was refused, and he thought the matter was ended, but a few days after he received a card from a surgical bootmaker stating that the appliances were ready. He called and explained the position to the maker, who, he asserts, informed him that he could either pay the amount or be "prosecuted." Unless our correspondent authorised the hospital authorities to order the boots, he is certainly not liable.

B. L. H. (Hendon).—It was surely clever of Captain Amundsen to leave Norway with 97 *dogs* and arrive at the ice barrier with 119. But why suggest that they were badly treated? Our conclusion is just the reverse.

E. D. (Gloucester) complains of the iniquity of the agreements which many employers compel their employees to sign, preventing them from entering the service of firms in a similar business within a given radius. We have constantly warned our readers against such agreements, but unfortunately when a man is on his beam-ends he is not in a fair position to bargain with his proposed employer. We fear it is out of the question to make such agreements entirely illegal, but the Courts have held that they must not be wider than is necessary for the master's protection.

J. S. (Bristol) sends us what he calls a song, expressing the desire to possess a mother similar to our own. We will content ourselves with quoting a bit out of his chorus:—

"I know 'tis very hard for to run a mother down,
For she the best friend I have and she never very hard.
But she alway drinking beer if it isn't that its gin
Then its three or four rounds with Sarah Anne Flyn.
She down now at the Bull where she gets the long pull.
O I wish I had a mother like yours."

Worthy of Alfred Austin at his best.

"ENQUIRER" (Bournemouth).—You can use any name you like provided it is for a lawful purpose. As you now desire to change your banking account to your real name, the simplest way would be to close it and open a new one. If you were to explain the circumstances to the Post Office officials, no doubt many enquiries would be made which might cause you much inconvenience and delay. We have again changed your name, for a *nom de plume*—as if we used either of your sets of initials you would probably be recognised locally.

T. V. L. (Balham) sends us an inquisitorial form issued under the Insurance Act. He thinks it foolish to ask the day, month and year of his birth and then to enquire how old he will be at his next birthday. The fifth question seems to us just as foolish: Do you work for (a) wages, or (b) a salary? Is there any difference between wages and salary, except in amount? And what is the precise sum which insures the dignity of the word salary? Emolument, we suppose, would be something still larger and would probably exempt recipients from the operation of the Act.

MRS. A. N. (Brussels) enquires, "How can one apply for divorce if the husband cannot be found?" That, at any rate, is evidence of desertion, and, if other causes exist, proceedings can be taken in his absence.

"INQUISITIVE" asks what is done with the fines imposed on the staff of the National Liberal Club for arriving late or eating up crumbs which fall from the members' tables. Perhaps they are added to the Party funds!

"YORKSHIRE" (Carshalton).—The fact that the wrong Christian name is on the judgment summons does not assist your friend if he is in fact the debtor; it is a mere clerical error which would be amended. He must attend the Court, otherwise he may be committed to prison for "contempt." The judge will doubtless make an order for payment by instalments, according to his means. A judgment debt remains in force twelve years If the original decree was obtained in the debtor's absence owing to a mistake, and he has a real defence to the action, he could apply to the Court to have it set aside, but if he has no real defence this would be a waste of money.

"KERRIDGE" sends us a "chain letter" appealing for used stamps in aid of a children's hospital in New South Wales. But even those who disapprove of chain letters and hospitals and colonies need not worry. Accumulations of ordinary used stamps are only worth a few pence as wastepaper.

D. W. (Sutton) and about 1,000 other readers are deluging us with the circulars of Captain Rand (Boston), who tries to palm off "lucky stones," and begins his circular with a lie about a "mutual friend." He must be doing a roaring trade and should be stopped by the Yankee Post Office which professes to discourage rogues.

Our "Bull" is now worth Two Hundred Pounds. See page 746.

"DOWN WITH IT" asks, "whether it is a general rule in England for the municipalities to be churched on the Sabbath following the elections." We thought that ceremony was confined to the fair sex, but it appears that in Scotland the provost and town councillors attend services in state, and "have a *hot* luncheon prepared in a true Bacchanalian order to wash down the sermon." We really do not see why they should not do so, if they choose to pay for it, but as our correspondent hails from North Britain we suppose his Sabbatarian prejudices are scandalised by the idea of cooking on the Lord's Day. But surely it is a new prejudice to denounce whisky-bibbing on a Scottish Sunday!

E. J. S. (Lavender Hill).—Your landlord cannot distrain on your daughter's goods for arrears of rent, but she must serve him with notice that the furniture is her property, and set forth what rent (if any) she owes to you.

"MAGISTER."—We see no reason why you should not replace your good grate with an inferior one, if your tenant makes no objection.

N. S. (Antwerp) says sailors have 4d. a week deducted from their wages under the Insurance Act, even when no doctors are carried on long voyages. Yes, but think of the maternity benefit!

"WELL DONE" (Beds.).—It is obvious by the wording of the receipt for the "caution money" that it was originally intended that your tenancy should continue for two years; but as the brewery company accepted your notice and found another tenant immediately, we are of opinion that the Court would hold that that part of the agreement had been waived, and that the deposit should be returned. It is very mean of a large brewery to attempt to take advantage of a poor man. Sue in the County Court.

"INQUISITOR" declines to pay under the National Insurance Act because he alleges the Government is not in a position to give the benefits promised, and is therefore obtaining money by false pretences, which is a crime; he has, accordingly, written to the Commissioners, respectfully but firmly refusing to be a party to it. We strongly advise him to modify his attitude, or he may learn to his cost that "It is hard to kick against the pricks."

G. W. J. (Highbury) objects to a laundry's 60-h.p. gas-engine "the exhaust of which thunders away for over 12 hours a day." Twenty-eight people have petitioned against "the monster," but are told: "O, you will get used to it in time." Why not tackle the Inspector of Nuisances?

J. (London) draws our attention to a place near Chancery Lane where 2s. 6d. is charged for the ordinary lunch. He has watched the provision of liquor many times and he asserts that "the greater part of the contents of a tankard are slops from the four-ale bar; not only the overflow, but the drainings from the glasses used by any dirty, snuff-taking customer." Tut, tut!

"REGULAR READER" (Walthamstow).—Your late landlord is very stupid not to accept the arrears of rent by the instalments you offer. If you are summoned, explain your position to the Court, and an order for payment by much smaller instalments than you are offering would be made. In the meantime, send him as much as you can, and he may change his litigious mind.

A. B. (Leeds) saw what he calls an attractive advertisement, offering to lend from £10 to £1,000 to all classes, "no fees, bonds or delay. Money sent by post any distance." So he wrote to A. Taylor, 5, Rossington Place, Gathorne Terrace, Roundhay Road, Leeds, and was informed that 6s. a week would be charged on a loan of £15, if he first sent 6s. 6d. for an application form. This is pretty stiff, considering that the interest is over 100 per cent.!

W. S. (Kingsland).—As the agreement for the hire of the piano stipulates that you must have it for at least a year, you are bound to keep it for that period; but if you write to the firm (who are of high repute) explaining your change of circumstances, they will no doubt meet you in a reasonable way.

R. E. C. (Stockton).—The fact that a dealer wanted your puppies on approval and said nothing about a deposit is no proof of fraud, but we are not taken by the circulars issued by E. Coombs (The Bungalow, Maidenhead). His misfortunes, his taste for music, his love of travel may appeal to the tender-hearted, but will not necessarily inspire the "fancy" with unlimited confidence.

L. W. R. (Manchester).—If the motor school had not the facilities to teach you in accordance with your agreement, you could recover your premium, but we doubt if the fact that the cars invariably break down would be sufficient ground, as it would be contended on behalf of the school that to repair broken-down cars was part of the training! You were justified in telling intending students the kind of tuition provided, and if your statements were true no proceedings could be successfully taken against you.

"VICTIM" tells us about a sane lady, whose husband is paying well for her to be kept in comfort at a private lunatic asylum. She is shut up atnight with the most insane patients, who keep her awake by their incessant talking, yet she has to be down at eight punctually "to the so-called breakfast, consisting of thick, dry bread and bad butter, tea like hot water, and a scrap of bacon or fish." We have, of course, no means of testing the lady's sanity, but there must be many cases in which the inmates of asylums are powerless to obtain redress of their grievances. This is all the more reason for rejoicing that the Mental Deficiency Bill has been postponed.

C. W. L. H.—As your late employer is untruthfully stating that he dismissed you for dishonesty, you can sue him for damages for slander. A solicitor's letter might put a stop to the annoyance. If you really fear that he will carry out his threat to assault you, take out a summons in the police court and have him bound over to keep the peace.

J. B. (Penge) is a Labour Exchange clerk who, under definite promise of immediate payment at a decent rate, worked 90 odd hours overtime in ten days, sometimes doing eighteen hours at a stretch. Now, however, he is told that, when appointed, he signed an agreement to give the whole of his time to the Board if necessary, and he is put off with vague promises of "gratuities." Evidently the State is not yet a model employer.

"ANXIOUS" (Cradley Heath).—The father has the legal right to the custody of his offspring, and your daughter's dying wish that you should have the charge of the child does not alter your son-in-law's rights, nor does the fact that you had charge of it for some time assist you. Better try to come to some amicable arrangement.

H. J. H. (London, F.) wants to purchase, cheaply and unbound, volumes 4 and 6 of this paper—that is, copies dated January to June, 1908 and 1909, respectively. Any replies will be forwarded.

D. H. (Grimsby).—You must have misunderstood your solicitor As your husband met with a fatal accident in the course of his employment, you are entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906. The fact that your husband had deserted you and was living with another woman makes no difference; but if he had any legitimate children they would be entitled to part of the compensation. You had better see your solicitor again and show him this.

A. M. (Creetown) does not seem to have grasped the nature of our "Biscuits," as he wants us to award one to a lottery agent who is sending out circulars. But we note his comment: "No wonder the Germans can build a navy on this kind of frost." If our Government would adopt our very moral plan of taxing gambling, Mr. Churchill might be able to carry out his promises of increasing pay in the Navy.

H. H. (Barking).—As your son was under 21 at the date of the injury, he is entitled by way of compensation, if his average earnings were less than 20s., to a weekly payment equal to the whole of his earnings, but this must not exceed 10s. As his injuries are permanent and the employers have ceased paying the compensation, he had better take proceedings in the county court immediately. He cannot compel the masters to pay him a lump sum in settlement, but when the weekly payment has been continued for not less than six months the employers can redeem the same by the payment of such amount as would, if invested in the purchase of an immediate life annuity from the National Debt Commissioners through the Post Office Savings Bank, purchase an annuity of 75 per cent. of the annual value of the weekly payment—in other words, if he were receiving £1 per week the employer could be relieved of his liability by buying an annuity of 15s. a week.

H. P. JUNIOR (Westminster) wants to know Mr. Bigland's authority for stating that neither Germans nor English want to attack one another. That statement is a favourite one with International Socialists, who fancy themselves strong enough to wage war upon war, but the strength of their peaceful persuasion has yet to be tested.

"JANE" (Sheffield) says that owing to some people communicating certain things, a wholesale firm declined to supply him with goods, even when he sent cash with the order. He took proceedings against the informants, but the judge stopped the case. Owing to the heavy costs incurred, he became bankrupt. He now wants to know, in view of the strong opinion recently expressed by the Lord Chief Justice on the alleged similar conduct of some other firm, if he could take another action. As his case has already been adjudicated upon, he cannot.

"A GOOD SHOT" complains that most of our "Bullets" prizes are given for puns, whereas other forms of humour exist. Well, he has only to exhibit them convincingly to secure recognition. In any case, we will bear the point in mind and make a respectful representation to the examiners.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

"Bullets" Prize now value £750.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

By "Verax."

(For City Notes and Financial Letter-Box, see pages 741 and 744.)

Markets will not properly get strong until peace actually prevails, although there is a much better undertone, and there is no doubt but that the public are straining at the leash. Special features are provided by the outburst in *Trunks*, due to the coming traffic agreement with an important American railroad, and the boiling over of the "Bull" movement in *Shipping stocks*.

Oil Shares Easier—The Mexican Eagle Directors' Report—South African Oil at Last.

The market for Oil shares has shown great strength at times, although it has to some extent been affected by the news concerning a settlement of the Balkan war and the possible international troubles that might occur. In the meantime *Shell Transports* are but little below the best, and rumours are current that the accounts of that Company will show a profit equal to 70 per cent., and that they will declare an interim dividend of 30 per cent. in January next, but it remains to be seen whether this rumour will be borne out by results. *Mexican Eagles* have again been prominent, and, as I anticipated, the directors' report proves very satisfactory, showing for the year ended June 30 a total credit balance of $4,306,901, and, after making various appropriations and paying the Preference dividend, $631,805 is left to carry forward. The rise in *Eastern Petroleum* is stated to be based on new arrangements for the purpose of placing the Company in a stronger financial position. There is a decrease in the output of the *Spies Petroleum Company*, which amounts to 4,469 tons, and it is assumed that this was due to repairs to certain wells. With the return of Mr. George Tweedy from his visit to the *Maikop Oilfield* an improvement in the principal Maikop shares is looked for shortly. Another item of interest is the announcement that several *Taman Oilfields* companies will be brought out shortly. *Ural Caspians* have been a firm market, although below the best. It is rumoured that the Company have now secured over a million acres in the Ural district. *Egyptian Oil Trust*, on the other hand, have been dull and lower, while *Premier Oil and Pipe Line* are quiet at 17s. There is talk of the Galician Oil Trust being taken over. Another Russian Oil Company, *Kozlowsky Petroleum*, is also likely to attract a good deal of attention in the near future. At the time of going to press there is considerable enquiry for the shares of the *Consolidated Oilfields of South Africa*, which look like becoming an active market feature. Dealings will doubtless be on a much larger scale as soon as the public issue is made. The shares are already being talked to a big figure, and I shall not be surprised to see some sensational developments at an early date.

Kaffirs, Rhodesians and Diamonds.

The outlook on the Rand is very satisfactory, as will be gathered from the favourable quarterly reports concerning the Barnato mines. The mines of the *Central Mining* and *Rand Mines* group are also doing well, but the statements vouchsafed last week by Lord Harris concerning the *Goldfields* group of Kaffir shares are by no means encouraging, and the only comfort is that the other South African groups are doing much better, so that it must be a question of management. Rhodesians have been comparatively steady, without any fireworks, but the news concerning the leading mines is as favourable as can be, and that was even conceded by Lord Harris, who, however, had nothing to say in favour of *West African Gold Mines* or *Nigerian Tin shares*.

Diamond shares have been strongly on the up-grade, on Paris purchases, especially *De Beers*, but finally a few unfavourable Balkan rumours caused a moderate relapse. Prices, however, are still higher for the week of *De Beers* and *Premier Deferred*, while *Jagersfontein* have been a good market all along, and *Roberts Victor* have reached nearly 2.

Copper Outlook Continues Favourable—More Electrification of Railways.

The outlook for Copper and Copper Mines is very interesting just now. The New York market for the metal continues very brisk, large quantities of electrolytic copper having been purchased there on foreign account at 17¾ cents. per lb. for delivery in thirty days. In fact, there seems to be every prospect of a large demand for electrifying railways in the near future, as not only the Melbourne suburban system is to be electrified, but also a considerable portion of the *Denver and Rio Grande* road. This, therefore, is in addition to the large demand for Europe. The *Cape Copper Company* has declared a dividend of 2s. 6d. per share, against 1s. 6d. a year ago, and it is also anticipated that the *Rio Tinto Company* will do very well in the second half of the year, although the price of the shares, after having been put up by Paris operators to 76½, has lost nearly a point, but then wide fluctuations are always the fashion in this favourite of the Paris Bourse. *Amalgamateds*, however, have been a very strong market, and upon the whole prospects of sound copper shares are distinctly favourable, especially as the visible supply in Europe has again declined owing to the large deliveries.

Iron, Steel and Coal Prosperity.

I am very pleased to note that such an essentially British industry as that of iron and steel is now in so prosperous a condition that more or less substantially increased dividends are being declared by the leading Companies. For example, *Pease and Partners* declare an interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. on the Ordinary and the Deferred shares, which compares with 6 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary shares only a year ago. Then, again, the *South Durham* distribution for the past year has been made up to 20 per cent., or double that for the previous year. Advices from the North and from the Midlands continue of a very optimistic character, and the producers cannot turn the metal out fast enough to meet the demands of their consumers. Under these circumstances it is obvious that excellent opportunities for investment are now offering in this department, and to those who do not care for more risks than possible, the following table of Debenture issues should prove very acceptable:—

Debs.	Int. %	Qtn.	Yield p.c. per ann. £ s. d.
Armstrong Whitworth ..	4	99½	4 0 6
Wm. Beardmore	4½	97	4 12 0
Bell Bros.	4	99	4 1 0
Cammell Laird	4½	92	4 18 0
Cargo Fleet	4½	92	4 18 0
Wm. Cory and Son	4½	98	4 12 0
Dorman Long	4	93	4 6 0
Guest Keen	4	102	3 18 6
Howard and Tullbough ..	4	99	4 1 0
Jno. Lysaght	4½	108½	4 3 0
Pease and Partners	4	92	4 7 0
Ransomes Sims and Jefferies	4½ ...	103	4 7 6
Rhymney Iron	5	97 ...	5 3 3
South Durham	4½	93	4 16 9
Thornycroft	5	97	5 3 3
Vickers	4	100xd.	4 0 0
Weardale	4	78	5 2 9

Little comment is necessary upon the above list, the safety varying in proportion to the yield.

Abortive Attempts to Wake Up Tin Shares—A Gamble in Ropps.

The further attempts which have been made to wake up the Nigerian Tin market were foredoomed to failure, as no one in their senses could be expected to look at such shares after the unpleasant experiences with *Anglo-Continental* and other descriptions, which were industriously boomed not long ago on the strength of all manner of unofficial reports. Now an attempt is being made to work up enthusiasm, this time by means of a demonstration in *Ropps*, on hints of "valuable discoveries" on a hitherto untested portion of the property. This may or may not prove to be the case, but I should think twice, and thrice, before paying £3 apiece for these £1 shares! A share of a different class is *Minnas*, which are 5s. shares and can be bought at 2s., although it often turns out that what is cheap is nasty. Cable advices state that careful examination has disclosed payable alluvial, and that a discovery of Wolfram has also been made.

St. Austell China-Clay—From Bad to Worse.

China-clay is undoubtedly an important article of commerce, but not all the companies working such deposits find it a royal road to prosperity. I have lately received a good many inquiries from readers who are interested in the *St. Austell China-Clay Works, Ltd.*, and have therefore taken a special interest in watching this concern, which was formed at the end of 1908, with an authorised capital of £44,000, the issued capital being £36,604 in 33,333 Ordinary and 3,271 Preference shares. It is, therefore, not a very big concern, but that is no reason why the many small investors interested in it should lose their money, as seems not unlikely from the way things are going. No dividend has yet been paid, but, on the contrary, the debit to expenditure and depreciation, as a result of the working for the year ended June 30, 1912, has been increased to £9,645.

"Bullets"—the Record-breaking Competition.

CITY NOTES.

(For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see page 744.)

Consolidated Oilfields of South Africa.

At last we have particulars of this important undertaking. They will be found on pages 742 and 743 of this issue, and we advise every one of our readers to carefully peruse them. Taken in conjunction with the contents of a pamphlet which accompanies the prospectus, and the general purport of which has already appeared in our columns, it constitutes the most attractive financial scheme we have come across for many a day. We do not say that the £1 shares now being offered will reach the £200 predicted by an eminent oil expert, but there are many more unlikely things than that in a few months' time they will stand at £5. It is a great scheme, and we predict for it a big success.

The Company Director.

Lord St. Aldwyn (*né* Hicks-Beach) was in fine form at the Institute of Directors last week, when he laid down the following astounding propositions about company directors:—

> 1. The day had gone by when company directors were called guinea-pigs, the most thick-skinned Member of Parliament now would not venture to talk of guinea-pigs, because he felt that he himself was in receipt of £400 a year . . . and there was no legal obligation upon him whatever to do a single stroke of work for his country.

Lord St. Aldwyn has not, of course, met the director who sits on the board of some scores of companies, draws thousands of pounds in fees during the year, and, so far from doing nothing for it, assists unscrupulous financiers to rob the shareholders.

> 2. When a company failed there should be a full and searching enquiry as to the causes of the failure without assuming guilt until guilt was proved. That was the present position of company law.

Lord St. Aldwyn has not, of course, heard of the Law Guarantee and Accident and the Birkbeck Bank failures, where heroic but fruitless attempts have been made to get the Government, "without 'assuming' guilt until guilt was 'proved,'" to institute "a full and searching inquiry as to the causes of the failures," as the result of which thousands of people have been ruined.

> 3. It was the business of a director to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the affairs of his company and feel a real responsibility and to act on that responsibility.

Lord St. Aldwyn has not, of course, heard of the case of the Maikop and Eastern Oil Company, Ltd., where, only last week, Mr. Justice Neville, in dismissing the petition for compulsory winding-up, said:—

> No warranty of any sort was given as to the business capacity of the people to whom they (the shareholders) entrusted their money, and they had no reason whatever to suppose that the speculation would prove other than disastrous. The Legislature was unable to protect people from the results of their own folly . . .

Lord St. Aldwyn was at one time President of the Board of Trade. That, of course, accounts for his knowing so little about these things.

The London Traffic Monopoly.

Two months ago (in our issue of September 28) we were the first journal to sound a warning note in the matter of the impending London Traffic Trust, and in our issue of November 9 the warning was repeated. Our contemporaries have now awakened to the danger, after Sir Edgar Speyer has got his scheme through quite comfortably. As we stated, the public will, one of these days, demand the dissolution of all Trusts in our midst, and it will then be too late. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company, which was "dissolved" last year by the American Government, has broken its own record in earning dividends since then, and is clamouring to be "dissolved" again, now that there is a new U.S.A. President to try his hand at the job. With us the Party system will see to it that Sir Edgar Speyer, a most useful ally for any Government, is not disturbed whilst playing the "under-and-over" game in the carrying of the people of London.

Tulsa Oil.

Of more than ordinary interest is the recent announcement that this Company's No. 13 well has struck oil, since this particular well is situated on the extreme south-east corner of the property, quite half a mile from the other twelve wells. It practically proves the whole area to be oil-bearing, and adds very greatly to the value of the shares.

National Gymnasia.

Further details are to hand concerning this novel enterprise, to which we referred last week. As we then stated, the Earl of Essex will be the chairman of the Company to be formed to carry the project into effect, and his colleagues, we understand, will be General Sir Bindon Blood, G.C.B., Colonel Sir William Watts, K.C.B., Captain the Hon. Southwell Fitzgerald, and Sir Henry Spencer Berkeley—altogether an exceedingly strong board for a company of this description. Quite apart from the splendid national work which the concern will undertake in affording unique facilities to the youth of the country to acquire thorough military training under attractive conditions—thereby creating a fine recruiting agency for the Territorial as well as the Regular forces—there would appear to be ample grounds for assuming that the commercial side of the undertaking will prove equally beneficial to its shareholders, and full particulars of the scheme will be awaited with interest.

Making Markets.

The undesirable practice of introducing shares on the Stock Exchange without publishing a prospectus is spreading. During the past week a market has been made in the shares of the Universal Cheap Cables, Ltd., the price of which started at 1⅛ for special settlement. The papers give but scant particulars about this concern, and even these appear to be furnished without anyone standing sponsor to them. The stock may be good, bad or indifferent for anything we know, but the method of its introduction does not predispose one in its favour.

NEW ISSUES.

Georgia and Florida Railway.

Just the sort of issue we do *not* recommend. All in the air. "*If*," says the prospectus, "the Georgia and Florida Railway only earns at the same average rate [as that of other Georgian railroads] and is operated at ratio of 66⅔ per cent., the earnings will be sufficient after satisfying the interest," etc., etc. And if *not?*

City of New Westminster Bonds.

More Canada. Four and a half per cent. issued at 96—for the province of British Columbia. "The validity of the Loan has been certified by Mr. Alexander Bruce, K.C., of Toronto." No doubt Mr. Bruce is a great Canadian lawyer. Let those who know him have the Bonds. There are better things at home.

Alberta Bonds.

Still more Canada, but 4 per cent. this time, and issued at 97. And this is the sort of piffle by which the Premier of the province supports the issue: "There is a coal area of about 16,588 square miles, estimated to contain 89,000,000,000 tons, consisting of anthracite, bituminous and lignite coals." We are surprised at Lloyd's Bank printing such stuff.

Algoma Central Terminals.

More Canada—with a share capital of £20,000, and now endeavouring to foist upon the British public an issue of £500,000 of "5 per cent. First Mortgage 50-Year Gold Bonds," part of an authorised issue of £1,000,000. They will have to be much older before we apply for any. There is one English director on the board, and we presume he will constitute a quorum.

Utilities Improvement Company.

An American Company, registered under the laws of the State of Delaware, and an offer of a million pounds of Preference stock, apparently on the top of a similar quantity recently offered in New York. The stock carries no voting power so long as the interest is not in default, and there is not a single English director on the board. The list of the Company's investments—largely Canadian—does not impress us, and on the whole we advise investors to leave the issue alone.

Genoa and District Water Works.

Surely this is hardly the time for Italian issues. It may be perfectly true that "the existing water supply in the Genoa district has long been recognised to be deficient in quantity and of very bad quality," but why on earth British investors should trouble themselves about the matter passes our comprehension.

Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa.

We refer to this important issue elsewhere, and need here merely reiterate our view that the shares constitute the best investment which has been offered the public in recent times.

"Bullets"—the Winter Evening Competition.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, *52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.*

A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

CITY OF PARIS BONDS.—M. W. (Manchester).—There is evidently some mistake. The price of £19 5s. is for the 1904 2½ per cent. Bonds, and not for the 1865 4 per cent. series. The price quoted you is £2 15s. higher than the present market quotation. Hungarian Credit Foncier Bonds are a little more speculative.

THREE INVESTMENTS.—I. O. W. (Ryde).—We do not advise the first and third you mention, but have already expressed a favourable opinion of the Trust.

OIL COMPANY.—W. A. T.—(1 and 2) The Company you enquire about will benefit presently by the new well, and as the managing director has just returned from a lengthy stay in Russia we shall soon hear further reliable news. (3) We think not. (4) Wait until the next news is published.

£150 INVESTMENT.—A. R. (York).—Put the money either into the new Queensland 4 per cent. loan issued at 99, and quoted at ¾ premium; or into Home Rails, such as Great Northern Deferred or South Western Deferred, the latter two stocks preferably on a reaction.

CANADIAN LANDS.—S. K. (Herne Hill).—We do not advise investment in the concerns you mention, and the flamboyant literature in question makes us more than usually suspicious. You will be far better advised to buy only sound stocks and shares in which there is a free market here.

W. HARROLD AND CO.—H. D. (Castleberg).—We are glad to hear that you have received the amount of your claim, and that the matter has been so satisfactorily disposed of.

COMMERCIAL ADVANCE CO.—Will "Broke Up," who recently complained of dealings with the notorious fee-snatcher, David Swyers, under this alias, please note that the Post Office is returning letters addressed to the concern at 119, New Bond Street, endorsed "gone away"?

OIL SHARES.—WORRIED.—Mexican Eagles have advanced lately, and although a further rise is probable, you had better only buy on reaction. No. 2 is highly speculative. Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa are the things to buy. We do not anticipate any further considerable improvement in Consols until we get a Business Government.

CENTRAL LONDON.—M. T. (Reading).—You will have noticed the changes that are contemplated in Underground Railways. Everything depends on the future.

BALCOSO TIN MINES.—DUMPLING, INTERESTED, AND OTHERS.—The Company has been wound up owing to want of capital. We still think the mine is ing to get a scheme of reconstruction through by which the shareholders' a good one, and we understand that the general manager is endeavour- interests will be protected.

LONDON AND MALKOP OIL CORPORATION.—DISGUSTED.—You had better attend the meeting, and then form your own conclusion. See answer to "Dumpling" in reference to Tin Mine.

ESTATE FINANCE AND MINES CORPORATION.—S. A. O. (Etilhian).—This concern is no longer mentioned in any books of reference, and, as far as we can ascertain, it ceased to exist three years ago.

£600 INVESTMENT.—LANCASHIRE.—Absolute safety being essential, you might put the money into the three following securities:—Irish Land 2½ per cent. Stock, at 76; Queensland 3½ per cent. Inscribed, at 95; and Western Australian 3½ per cent. Inscribed, at 91½.

TWO AMERICAN INVESTMENTS.—NORTH COUNTRY.—The status of the various concerns, Nos. 1 to 7, is very much alike; but they can be placed in the following order of merit:—Nos. 7, 2, 3, 6, 1, 4, and 5, the yields ranging from £5 4s. to £6 5s. per cent. per annum.

UNION STEEL CORPORATION (OF SOUTH AFRICA).—KINLOCH.—We note what you say about reported friction between the Union Government and the Company, but no recent information is available. Perhaps, however, the Secretary of the Company will vouchsafe some information. The board is composed of gentlemen of very high standing in the financial world, and the concern should eventually work into a good position. As regards the Rhodesian syndicate in question, circumstances have so far been altogether against such undertakings.

£500 DEPOSIT.—D. R. (Glasgow).—This deposit would probably be safe enough, but it is preferable to put your money into sound securities, the following being a good selecton:—Great Northern Railway 4 per cent. Preferred Ordinary, at 89; Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. Bonds, at 93; Vickers' 5 per cent. Third Mortgage Debentures, at 106.

ELECTRIC PALACES (MIDLANDS), LTD.—NORMAN (Walton).—This concern has not even attained the dignity of mention in the standard books of reference. On the face of it, you have a good case against the Company, but the matter is essentially one for legal advice, while the question has also to be considered whether the money, if recoverable by law, can actually be secured from these people.

CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—NUMEROUS READERS.—Get in whilst you can, at anything like par. The shares may see pounds in a few months.

GALICIAN OIL LANDS AND ROYALTIES TRUST.—T. E. C. (Bristol).—The firm you mention are, in our opinion, quite trustworthy.

OIL AND GENERAL SHARE EXCHANGE.—OLEO.—This concern seems to fill a public want, and judging by its circulars would appear to be exceptionally well informed in all matters relating to the oil market. You may safely entrust them with your business.

KOZLOWSKY PETROLEUM.—BENZINO.—The Company would appear to be in the midst of all the best things in South Russia, and we shall not be surprised if its shares become a very popular counter in the market.

PEARL ASSURANCE CO.—A. M. A. (Purley).—The policy on the life of your mother is legal, provided at the time you had a bona-fide expectation that you would incur expenses in connection with her death or funeral. You say that the Company assert that their "Life of Another" proposals do not require the signature of the persons proposed for assurance, and they refuse to return the premiums paid. The policy conditions make no provision for the payment of a cash surrender value or the issue of a free paid-up policy. Unless the Company will make you some allowance you will lose all you have paid in the event of the premiums being discontinued. S. B. (Runcorn).—Consult the local Superintendent in regard to the policy taken away by the agent, and have the matter put right, that is if you intend to keep the policies going. Unless the payment of the premiums are kept up the policies will lapse. You assert that neither as regards the first or second policy was any document signed by you or your mother. The Company is not in the habit of issuing policies in the absence of a proposal form, which forms the basis of the contract between the assured and the Company. Someone must have signed the proposal form, but in any event you could not make this a ground for demanding back the monies you have subscribed. The policies we should say are legal, provided at the time you had a bona-fide expectation that you would incur expenses in connection with the death or funeral of your mother.

REFUGE ASSURANCE CO.—W. T. B. (Lennoxtown).—The Company is bound to admit liability for premiums paid to their agent, although the latter may not have accounted for the same. Write the head office and ask them to have the matter put right. Irregularity on the part of the agent does not entitle you to a return of the premiums, and as regards arrears, Rule 5 states "the neglect of any collector to call will not be admitted as an excuse for non-payment. C. G. C. (Lymington).—Unless your sister can show that at the time the policy was effected she had a bona-fide expectation that she would incur expenses in connection with the death, or funeral, of the assured, we are of opinion that the policy is not legally valid, and that the premiums could be recovered. Consult a solicitor.

BRITISH UNION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE CO., LTD. (in Liquidation).—W. H. (Sunderland).—Your father's estate is liable for the uncalled 10s. per share. It was an unfortunate investment, but we are unable to discover any legal ground for claiming relief.

BRITISH CITIZEN'S ASSURANCE CO.—E. E. (Liverpool).—The position of this concern is unsatisfactory. Write the Company and demand the return of the subscriptions paid. If they should refuse consult a solicitor. The Court recently decided, that Bond Certificates being in the nature of life assurance, were issued illegally unless the deposit of £20,000 had been made.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA LEGAL AND FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—W. T. P. (Clerkenwell).—You are in the Society's hands, and must either accept their offer or keep on paying.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—H. W. S. (High Wycombe).—We think you may rely on the Association carrying out any engagement into which it may enter. It is contrary to our practice to make comparisons of benefits as between one Company and another, but, in any case, you should study the rules relating to lapses and surrenders. If it is your intention to insure your life in connection with house purchase, we may mention that several Companies make a feature of this combination, and you should obtain their prospectuses and terms, and then decide which of the Companies will best suit the purpose you have in view.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—G. L. (Old Kent Road).—The value would depend upon the nature and duration of the policy. Write the Head Office for definite information, to include the cash value of bonuses, and let us know what they say.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE.—W. H. L. (Portsmouth).—The certificate subscriptions paid prior to the transfer to the assurance branch were added to the amount of the policy. In the event of a claim arising by death, the amount so credited, together with the sum assured and the cash value of any reversionary bonuses, would be receivable by your legal representatives. The present surrender value of the policy is one-third of the premiums paid. The subscriptions paid under the certificate are not, of course, included for the purpose of surrender, these having been added to the sum assured. We think, on the whole, you have been very fairly treated, and unless there is any special reason why the policy should be surrendered, we should recommend you to keep it in force, especially as you are eligible to negotiate a second loan. W. L. (Paisley).—You informed us that the property in Ireland was valued by an insurance agent. This is quite contrary to the practice of a life office, and we now learn that the house was valued by an eminent surveyor at a figure widely divergent from the amount at which you assessed it. The negotiations appear to have been somewhat protracted, but the Company eventually offered to lend £500, subject to certain necessary repairs, the house having been empty for a period of about two years. We should not ourselves have surrendered the policy, but should have submitted another property for approval. The Company has assisted several thousands of its members to become property owners, and your impression that they have no funds is quite unfounded.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—W. C. (Greenock).—The policy is illegal. Your friend cannot insure the life of her husband without his knowledge, consent, and signature. B. E. (Llanelly).—If the business was done without your knowledge and consent, and the premiums paid out of your wages, you could recover the money paid in. J. L. (Chard).—Your friend can obtain a cash surrender on this policy, the amount of which can only be ascertained by application to the chief office of the Company. It would possibly be £6 or £7. E. R. (Witham).—Your policy is quite in order, as it is an Own Life one, and it becomes your property on the attainment of the age of 21 or at marriage. The fact that your grandmother paid the premiums part of the time makes no difference. W. G. S. (Rotherfield).—The policy is an illegal one, and the premiums paid in are recoverable. A. S. (Bayswater).—The amount offered is according to their scale, and you have no remedy. W. J. J. (W. Hampstead).—You can with safety appreciate the loan of £9. By accepting the loan you are not giving up your bonus, but you are having the surrender value of it in the loan. In other words, the £9 is the full surrender value of the policy and bonus.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

THE COMING OIL BOOM

Do you want to be in the best things when the Boom comes? If so, send us your name and address, and we will forward you, free of charge, a copy of the *Oil Market Record*, containing a synopsis of the holdings, financial history and prospects of the leading companies, and also our *Oil Market Review*, which is published weekly, and will keep you posted as to the output at the different fields, and the latest market prices in the Share market.

Please, however, understand that we do business for genuine delivery only, and we do not undertake dealings on Cover or Margin, nor promote Pools, Combinations, or any of the manifold schemes that are associated with the methods of "Bucket Shops," and outside brokers generally.

At the moment our strong recommendation is CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

OIL & GENERAL SHARE EXCHANGE,
38, FINSBURY PAVEMENT, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: OLEOGENSHA, AVE, LONDON.
Telephone: LONDON WALL 3973

"Bullets"—the STRAIGHT Competition.

The "Union Jack" Sweepstakes.

A TALK ABOUT MR. DIAMOND, OF LUCERNE.

By Our Special Representative.

It is under the above patriotic title that Mr. H. Diamond, of Lucerne, has popularised his famous Racing and Football sweeps; and we should not be surprised to see him one day seriously challenging the Calcutta Turf Club in public support. One of the secrets of his success is doubtless the low price of the tickets—2s. 6d. each—but another, and a very important factor, is the splendid business methods and organising powers behind the concern. The offices at Lucerne more resemble a banking institution than a sporting establishment, and Mr. Diamond makes it his boast that not a detail escapes his personal attention.

"I was particularly struck with this feature," says our Special Representative, reporting upon the recent draw for the Manchester November Handicap sweep. "Everything went with the precision of clockwork, the only semblance of even a smile on the faces of the scrutineers being when the two first favourites were drawn by ladies. Mr. Diamond himself took no personal part in the draw, the physical portion of which was performed by a pretty little Swiss girl, whilst I and my press colleagues played the rôle of recording—well, recording journalists! We, however, took note of all that happened, and we looked in vain for any kind of opportunity for favouring a particular ticket. And when it was over we all signed the following declaration:—

We, the undersigned, hereby declare that we were present at the drawing for the Union Jack Sweepstakes on the Manchester November Handicap, held on November 12th, 1912. We have no connection whatever with the business of Mr. H. Diamond, and we are not related to him or any of his employees. We were present at the drawing in order to protect the interests of all parties and in order to make it impossible for any person to have the slightest cause for complaint. The method of drawing the numbers was as follows:—

A brass lottery wheel was used containing 49 small metal tubes with screw tops. Each of the tubes contained a typed slip bearing the name of a horse entered in the Manchester November Handicap. A larger wheel was also used containing the numbers of the tickets which had been paid for. Both wheels were locked and turned for some time by ourselves. The first wheel was then unlocked and one of the small metal tubes taken out. A numbered ticket was then taken from the second wheel. The tubes and numbers were drawn by two little Swiss girls, unable to speak English, who handed the slips to one of us. As each slip was received, the name of the horse was called out aloud; followed by the number of the ticket drawn from the second wheel, with the full name and address of the person who had purchased that ticket. After each number was drawn, both wheels were locked and turned again. After the 49 horses had been drawn, a further 500 numbers were drawn from the larger wheel. The purchasers of these 500 numbers are each entitled to a consolation award. Previous to the drawing we carefully inspected both wheels, and satisfied ourselves that they were so constructed as to give each subscriber a fair and equal chance. The wheels themselves were supplied by the leading firm in France, and are identical with those used for the great State lotteries. The drawing itself was conducted by ourselves, and each of us wrote down the particulars as they were drawn, and they were again called out aloud in order to make any mistake impossible. The written sheets have been kept by ourselves so they may afterwards be compared with the printed result sheet. Mr. H. Diamond and his employees were present, but they took no part whatever in the drawing. The whole business was conducted by ourselves, and we are all firmly of opinion that it was absolutely impossible for any unfairness to have taken place.

Signed at Lucerne on Tuesday, November 12th, 1912.

This declaration faithfully records the method adopted at the drawing, and it is difficult to conceive of anything fairer or more straightforward.

Before taking leave of Mr. Diamond, I availed myself of the opportunity to have a general chat with him as to the remarkable growth of his business. He courteously took me over the whole of his establishment, and explained the working of each department—including a wonderful system of checking correspondence and preventing the possibility of a letter or postal order going astray. Still comparatively young, Mr. Diamond is mentally and physically extremely alert, and is, above all, essentially a business man. He smiles at the folly of the British Legislature in forbidding Sweepstakes and Competitions, and points to the great revenue which the Swiss Government is already deriving from that source, and of consequent relief of local burdens. "Everything we do is carried out under the direct supervision of the Swiss Government Authorities," he said, "and they are invariably represented at our drawings, to see that everything is straight and square—a course to which no respectable firm has any objection."

"To what do you attribute your success?" I asked.

"First," said Mr. Diamond, "to the popular price of our tickets; secondly, to the fairness of our system of drawing; and, thirdly, to our promptitude in paying."

"And, is there no other reason?" I enquired, with a sly glance at my note-book.

"Oh, of course," replied Mr. Diamond, "I do not deny that the great prominence which John Bull has given to my business has had something to do with it, and surely it is a remarkable testimony to my bonâ-fides that, with your enormous circulation, you scarcely ever receive a complaint from a subscriber."

Admitting that this was so, and more convinced than ever that in backing up Mr. Diamond we are rendering our sporting readers a genuine service, I took leave of the dapper little man.

I have since referred to my list, and find that the fortunate holder of the Wagstaff number is Mr. A. B. Wyatt, of 3, Falmer Road, Enfield, who, I have no doubt before these lines appear, will have duly received his cheque. By the way it is interesting to note that the winners of the first three prizes are all resident in England—a further tribute to the genuineness of the draw

OUR CHRISTMAS TREAT!

Another 400 SPECIAL PRIZE TURKEYS are to be won this week. This is an opportunity every reader shou d take advantage of without delay. Certainly a turkey is the most suitable and welcome Yule-tide gift—and we are giving 2,000.

No other weekly journal is placing before its readers such a remarkably generous and attractive offer for the coming festive season.

£200 FOR A "BULLET"!

PRIZES VALUE £ 750

For our first prize this week we are still enabled to offer the magnificent sum of £200 for the best "Bullet" received.

First Prize £200

2nd Prize £25 - 3rd Prize £10

Ten Prizes of £2 10s. 0d.

And a Large Number of £1 and 10s. Prizes.

PRIZES VALUE £ 750

In addition to the above cash prizes we are giving this week

1,000 Handsome Christmas Prizes

AND

400 XMAS TURKEYS.

YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS UNPARALLELED OFFER.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

MY WIFE'S MOTHER
GREAT BRITAIN
POVERTY
GIVING NOTICE
STRIKES
CUP TIE
WHISKY AND SODA
CHATALJA
HOSPITAL NURSE
EDISON
GETTING MARRIED
MATINEE HAT
WHEN HOME LATE
ULTIMATUM
FATHER AND MOTHER
TIN-TACK
OLD MAID
SLOT METER
SIR FREDERICK BANBURY
DANCING
TWO HUNDRED POUNDS
ASKING FATHER
RACING TIPSTER
NOBODY WANTS
SHAP DIVISION
BEHIND THE COUNTER
SIMPLE SIMON
MY GROWL
CUPID
FIGHTING RESUMED
LITIGATION
NOT TRUE
GETTING THE SACK
SOFTLY SPOKEN
WORKING MAN
TROUBLOUS TIMES
RAPIDLY APPROACHING
THE TIPPING SYSTEM
GENERAL ELECTION
THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word

For instance, if you take the example "LITIGATION" and choose the letters "G" and "L," using the word "Disgusts" as the middle word, you can form the Bullet "GENERALLY DISGUSTS LOSERS." Or from the example:—"TWO HUNDRED POUNDS," the Bullet "USEFUL SUM" can be formed. Again, if you take the example "OLD MAID," using the letter "M" as initial letter for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet, "MEANS NOT MARRIED."

KINDLY NOTE

That Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence, but if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

☞ **Continental competitors please note that:—**
FOR THIS COMPETITION THEY ARE ALLOWED UNTIL FRIDAY, DEC. 6th, TO SEND IN.

Closing date, Wednesday, Dec. 4th.

Example .....

Bullet .....

Example .....

Bullet .....

(9) P.O. No. .....

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on the following page and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed .....
Address .....
.....
.....
A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

Closing date, Wednesday, Dec. 4th.

Example .....

Bullet .....

Example .....

Bullet .....

(9) P.O. No. .....

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on the following page and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed .....
Address .....
.....
.....
A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

IF BOTH COUPONS ARE USED, A POSTAL ORDER FOR 1/- MUST BE SENT.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Envelopes should be marked "BULLETS, No. 9," "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE JUDGING

Many of these competitions are hastily or carelessly judged, and numerous good coupons are overlooked. **Every BULLETS Coupon will be read slowly and carefully by our special staff of adjudicators of the highest ability,** after which all the coupons will be read a second time, and just as much time and trouble will be devoted to the second reading as to the first. By this means it is practically impossible for any coupon to be overlooked.

THE RESULT OF THIS COMPETITION WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED DECEMBER 21ST, 1912.

FOR RULES SEE PAGE 747.

RESULT OF SIXTH BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £150:—

Mr. JAS. H. HORAN, 77 Dover Road, Greenes, Sheffield.

Example:—SHOPPING.
Bullet:—HUBBY "WEIGHTED" PATIENTLY.

SECOND PRIZE OF £25:—

Miss E. DYER, Mandalay, St. Helens, Isle of Wight.

Example:—MRS. BEETON.
Bullet:—SUPPLIES "CONCRETE" EXAMPLES.

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:—

Mr. WILL H. CARR, 24, High Street, Eastbourne.

Example:—CONSCRIPTION.
Bullet:—SPLENDID—FOR OTHERS.

TEN PRIZES OF £2 10s. ARE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:—£2 10s. each to:—Mrs. A. DUNCAN, 34, Broad Street, Haverhill, Suffolk (THE TWINS—SIRE BECOME SIGHER); Mrs. W. PROSSER, 13, Stanhope Road, Stockton-on-Tees (ALARM CLOCK—MRS.'S ELBOW RELIABLE); Mr. H. S. BOOTH, 32, Gloucester Road, Pendleton, Manchester (EVERYBODY'S DOING IT—TILL "BOSS" GOES); Mr. S. BATE, 86, London Street, Reading (EXTRAVAGANT WIFE—FRILLS EMPTIES PURSE); Mr. T. BAGLEY, 15, Nelson Street, Leicester (INTERNATIONAL POLITICS—PETTICOATS OFTEN CONTROL); Mr. A. CAMERON, 43, Chapel Road, Worthing (MY DREAD—DOGS WHEN MOTORING); Mr. G. BROOKE, 18, York Street, Canton, Cardiff (NEVER AGAIN—NATIONAL DEBT PAID); Miss N. BREWER, Central Hotel, Dover (ALARM CLOCK—AFTER WEEK—ORNAMENT); Mr. E. A. WICKS, 222, Durban Road Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire (IN A WHISPER—"ISAACSTEIN" APPRECIATING PORK).

£2 10s. divided between:—Mr. J. L. IVES, 161, Hemingford Road, Barnsbury, N. (CONSTANTINOPLE—OUTLOOK—BLACK, "SEE"); and Mrs. QUINTON, Wayfield Cottage, Bicknoller, near Taunton (CONSTANTINOPLE—SITUATION—BLACK, "SEE").

10 PRIZE WINNERS of £1 EACH:

W. ANSELL, 90, North End, Croydon.
H. D. BRADBURY, 2, Osborne Grove, Halifax.
S. CROWTHER, 8, Archery Place, Leeds.
A. FLAMANK, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey.
JENNIE GOLDWORTHY, Clifton House, King Street, Brynmawr, Brec.
A. HUGHES, 36, Whitefriars' Crescent, Southend-on-Sea.
T. REID, Argyle House, Kinloch Leven, Argyll, N.B.
J. SAMUEL, 20, Bold Square, Chester.
H. SUTTON, 7, Woodbury Park Gardens, Tunbridge Wells.
J. WILD, 17, New Cross Street, Bradford, Yorks.

20 PRIZE WINNERS of 10s. EACH:

A. BARNES, 36, Kingsgate Road, West Hampstead.
J. C. BRUCE, 35, Iona Street, Leith, N.B.
J. W. COLMAN, 20, Astley Terrace, East Seaton Delaval Northland.
W. DORMER, 60, Chelverton Road, Putney, S.W.
G. H. HARGREAVES, The Mill, Sidlesham, near Chichester.
E. E. EVANS, 36, Leslie Avenue, Taunton, Somerset.
H. F. HALLS, 48, Clifton Road, Kingston Hill, Surrey.
Mrs. M. JACKSON, 33, Parade Street, Barrow-in-Furness.
J. JAGGARD, 6, Dalkeith Road, Dulwich, S.E.
S. K. KERSLEY, Congham Rectory, King's Lynn, Norfolk.
W. MATTHEWS, 7, Mount Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
L. N. PEARCE, 56, Walliscote Road, Weston-super-Mare.
W. G. PETERS, 4, Caple Parade, Hurray Road, Harlesden, N.W.
F. A. PHILIP, 405, Great Western Road, Glasgow.
Miss A. RENDELL, Sunny Bank, Hill Top, Eastwood, Notts.
Miss F. STRUTT, Mansfield Road, Alfreton, Derbyshire.
G. H. SUMMERS, 5, Latchmere Street, Battersea, London, S.W.
H. WARD, 44, Granville Gardens, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.
W. WHITE, 3, Merton Villas, Rodborough, Stroud, Glos.
J. W. YATES, 7, Richmond Terrace, Abernant Road, Aberdare, South Wales.

Selection from List of 1,000 Special Prize Winners Bullets Comp. No. 6

Babgood, F., 108, Hertford-rd., Kingsland, London, N.
Bagon, Dora, 11, Prince of Wales-ter., Beeston, Notts.
Bakins, J., 14, Barrington-rd., Colchester, Essex.
Ball, Miss Nellie, The Triangle, Hampton-on-Thames, Middlesex.
Ball, W. J., 51, Calverly-grove, Hornsey Rise, N. London.
Ballam, Mrs. G. E., 170, Willow-st., Leicester.
Ballett, Mrs. G., Shrublands, Smithy Bridge, nr. Manchester.
Bailey, James, Balhousie, Perth, N.B.
Balliday, Ernest, 19, Armiston-rd., Shepherd's Bush, W.
Balliday, Jas. A., "Drumcoon," Ardenleave., Belfast.
Bamilton, Wm., 22, Shuttle-st., Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland.
Bandley, Wm. H., 32, Freehold, Leathside, Durham.
Barratta, James, 13, Cleon Brae, Port Glasgow, Scotland.
Barding, R., 25, Cromwell-rd., Luton.
Bardwick, E., sen., Sydenham-ter., Hamworthy, Dorset.
Barley, Miss M., Mannfield, Wentworth-rd Golder's Green, N.W.
Barman, Mrs. M. A., 13, Maxwell-rd., East Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants.
Barper W. C., 58, Rockbourne-rd., Forest Hill, S.E.
Barradance, Mrs. A., 7, Gibson-rd., Forest Fields, Nottingham.
Barris, Mrs., 216, Munster-rd., Fulham.
Barrison, Harry, 5, Walker-lane, Hyde, nr. Manchester.
Barwood, G., Ripley-rd., Worthing.
Barvey, Mrs. E., 13a, Wyndham-ter., Salisbury, Wilts.
Barkins, T. N., 32, Alexandra-rd., S. Hampstead, London.
Bay, James, 61, Endborne-rd., Arrell Park, Liverpool.
Bayes, B., 26, Salisbury-rd., Highfield, Southampton.
Beard, A. S., 48, Argyle-rd., Ilford.
Beasley, G. P., 23, Salthrop-rd., Bishopston, Bristol.
Beaver, Frank, 17, Chevalier-rd., Jersey
Beaverson, Thomas, 45, Eglinton-st., Sunderland.
Bedderson, Mrs. Minnie, 4, Villas-on-Heath, The Vale, Hampstead, N.W.
Bedwy, Joseph R., 13, Morlan-ter., Barry Port, Carmarthenshire.
Henry, W., 26, Bath-rd., Bournemouth.
Hepple, Edward, 80, Churchgate, Stockport, Cheshire.
Herbert, Amy, 17, Tubwell-row, Darl'gtn.
Hammond, S. J. C., Church-st., Holbeach, Lincs.
Harmer, Sapper, No. 22903, Chatendean Barracks, Rochester.
Harris, R. W., 85, Grape-st., Hunslet-rd., Leeds.
Harrow, F., 22, Ivydale-rd., Nunhead.
Harwood, Mrs. M. G., London and South Western Bank, Belmont, Surrey.
Harvey, Herbert W., 6, Upper Plymouth-grove, Longsight, Manchester.
Hawthorn, Jack, 1, Lovely-lane, Warrington, Lancashire.
Hobden, E., Glaziers Farm, Forehamrd., Sussex.
Hogan, Joseph, 30, Devonshire-st., Higher Broughton, Manchester.
Holden, Mrs. C., 56, Trinity-rd., Jersey.
Hook, R. G., R.A. band, Citadel, Plymouth.
Horn, Russell, 33i, Wellshot-rd., Tollcross, Glasgow
Hosking, Cecil, Capital and Counties Bank, Ltd., King's Cross, W.C.
Howard, Mrs. W., 172, Harrowby-st., Kingsley-rd., Liverpool.
Hudson, Mrs. Laurie, 54, Tennyson-rd., Small Heath, Birmingham.
Hughes, C. B., 125, Holland Park-ave., London, W.
Hughes, C. R., 1, Mount Pleasant-rd., Willesden, N.W.
Hughes, W. E., Beaufort-sq., Chepstow, Mon.
Hull, C. M., Ivy Gates, L'Ancresse Common, Guernsey.
Humphreys, J., 12a, Walpole-rd., Bromley Common, Kent.
Hickton, Mrs. B., Clifton Cottage, Newmilns, Ayrshire.
Hill, G., 14, Tower-rd W., St. Leonards-on-Sea.
Hill, John, Forsbrook, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent.
Hill, James R., 8, Langtongate-st., Duns., N.B.
Hill, Mary E., 415, High-st., Lincoln.
Hinde, Claude H. C., Bloomfield, Braunton, N. Devon.
Hinton, Jonas, 51, Tickhill-st., Denaby Main, Rotherham, Yorks.
Hiskins, Harry P., 26, Willows-cres., Balsall Heath, Birmingham.
Hoar, Mrs. Alice, 24, Kingsdown-rd., Holloway, N.
Hoare, Charles, 34, St. George's-rd., Upton-lane, Forest Gate, E.
Hoe, Thomas, 94, Cowley-rd., Brixton.
Hogarth, E. Moore, 21, Milton-rd., Hanwell, W.
Hogarth, Jas., Coal Hill, Newton, S Boswells, N.B.
Hollard, Mrs. Daisy, 21, Inglethorpe-st., Fulham Park, London.
Holliday, J. W., 7, Olive-st., Romford.
Holik, Tos, c/o A. Trinne, Baker-st., Weybridge, Surrey.
Hollingsworth, L., 70, Crewe-st., Derby.
Hollyman, J. H., 457, High-rd., Chiswick.
Hood, Robert, 27, Bridge-st., Tranent.
Hough, Walter, 99, Morley-ave., Mapperley, Nottingham.
Hough, W. F., 21, Melling-rd., Aintree, Liverpool.
Houghton, T., 138, Stocks-rd., Ashton, Preston, Lancs.
Howe, Tom, 55, Doughty st., W.C.
Howells, D., 118, Harnall-lane East, Coventry.
Howland, C. A., 59, Maplethorpe-rd., Thornton Heath, Surrey.
Hudson, N., Birkland House, Wainfleet-rd., Skegness.
Huish, E. C., Station House-st., Greenwich, S.E.
Hunniball, Chas., 24, Foresters-ter., Thetford.
Hunt, H., 25, Leam-st., Leamington, Spa.
Hunt, S. G., 59, Bainton-rd., Oxford.
Hunter, Mrs. H., 29, Denholm-st., Greenock.
Inglis, Emily, 43, Mellor-rd., Birkenh'd.
Innes, Edward, 17, Spring-gdns., Buxton.
Ivall, R., Fire Station, Perry Vale, Forest Hill, S.E.
Ivers, James, staff, N.B. Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Jepson, Walter, Sydney Villa, Christian Malford, nr. Chippenham, Wilts.
Johnson, Chas., 16, Sibthorp-st., Lincoln.
Johnstone, Mrs. Geo., 73, High-st., Ardersier, Inverness.
Jones, Wilfrid, 272, Bolton-rd., Irlams o' th' Height, Manchester.
Jacobson, Mrs. R., 71, Morningside Drive, Edinburgh.
Jackson, Mrs. Nellie, 19, Church-rd., Waterloo, nr. Liverpool.
James, M., 4, John-st., Treforest, nr. Pontypridd, Glam.
James, A. J., 131, Gorsefield-rd., Prenton, Cheshire.
James, E., 37, High-st., St. Peter's, Thanet.
James, Pedley F., 8, St. Bride's-rd., Egremont, Cheshire.
Jarman, Mrs. E., 16, Churchill-rd., St. Thomas, Exeter.
Jefferies, Mrs., 2, Merrington-rd., West Brompton, S.W.
Jeffery, S. F., Berlin House, Cheltenham.
Johnston, Cyril, 118, Whitham-rd., Sheffield.
Johnston, Peter, Droaholm-ter., Ayr.
Jolliffe, Alfred J., 18, New-rd. East., Buckland, Portsmouth.
Jones, Nurse, c/o — Bell, Esq., "Grays," Berkhamsted.
Jones, Annie E., "Ohlendorf," North Woolwich-rd., Victoria Docks.
Jones, A., 21, Riat-st., Upper Medlock-st., Hulme, Manchester.
Jones, Arthur, 54, Seymour-rd., Bishopston, Bristol.
Jones, Charles, 66, Malveen Hill-rd., Nechells, Birmingham.
Jones, Mrs. J. A., Station-rd., Llansamlet, nr. Swansea.
Jones, R. O., 181, Osborne-rd., Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Jones, W. H., 92, Canton-st., Poplar, E.
Jones, Thos. A., 71, Perrin-lane, Monton, Eccles, nr. Wye.
Jordan, Wm., 28, Wellington-rd., Bilston,
Joseph, J., 47, Penybank-rd., Ammanford, S. Wales.
Jouelit, S., 7, Buxton-st., Lee Morin, Halifax.
Kelch, Stanley, 75, Beaconsfield-st., Wesgate, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Kell, Fred K., 10, Kingsley-rd., Norwich.
Kelley, I., Avonlea, Wyland-rd., Colchester
Kelsey, Alfred Percy, Rise Bungalow, New Marston Nurseries, Oxford.
Kenney, Geo., 81, Tunstoll-rd., E. Croyd'n.
Kett, E. C., 1, Blackboy and Trumpet-lane, "Kingswood," Bristol.
Kimber, Mrs. G., 2, Nelson-st., Beaufort, Brecon, South Wales.
Kinniburgh, Walter, 371, Keppochhill-rd., Springburn, Glasgow.
King, A. E., 68, Rowfant-rd, Balham.
King, J. W., 9, Norple-rd., Balham, S.W.
King, Mrs. S., Racton, nr. Emsworth.
Kingerley, E., 24, Pier-rd., Rosherville.
Kinsley, Alfred, 48, Benson-ave, Upton Park, Essex.
Kirckner, Francis J., Pleasant-view, 21, Sunnyside-rd., Ilford.
Kirk, Wm., Netherton, Maryport.
Kissock, A. E., 35, Oakwood-rd., Brynmill, Swansea.
Knight, Kathleen, Dunhampstead, Droitwich.
Knowles, Chas. E., 22, Montalt-rd., Woodford Green, Essex.
Kyd, Tib, Tillyboy, Ercht, Aberdeen.
Keast, George, 25, Lincoln-ave., Plym'uth.
Keep, Mrs. H. M., 233, Thorold-rd., Ilford, Essex.
Kent, R. F., "The Nook," Tuffley-cres., Gloucester.
King, Arthur, 14, Franklin-rd., Westham, Weymouth.
King, Frederick, Hall-ter., Bishop Auckland, Durham.
Lamb, A. R., "Rosedene," Montem-rd., Slough.
Lamb, D. L., 5, Queen's-rd., Felixstowe.
Lambert, G. P., 610, Old Kent-rd., S.E.
Lamont, James, 41, High-st., Johnstone, Scotland.
Larcombe, F. C., 74, Manners-rd., Southsea.
Laurance, Jack, 4, Nightingale Villas, Sidcup, Kent.
Laurence, Eyre, 47E, Lewis Dwellings, Liverpool-rd., N.
Laurie, Jack D., 33, Raikes-parade, Blackpool
Laurie, Agnes, 182, Twickenham-rd., Leytonstone, Essex.
Lee, J., 7, Sale-st., Paddington, W.
Leeper, Patrick, 27, George-st., Devonp'rt.
Lees, H., 27, Butcher-st., Thurnscoe, Rotherham, Yorks.
Leggett, Robert H., 1, George's Quay, Dublin, Ireland.
Leigh, Marguerite, 20, Station-rd., Chingford.
Letton, Elizabeth, Elvadton, Swanage.
Leverett, G. W., 33, Tenison-rd., Cambridge.
Lewis, John P., 291, Soho-ter., Cranford-st., Smethwick.
Lindon, George, Bentley Heath, Knowle, Birmingham.
Lister, Harry, 8, Croft-ter., Jarrow-on-Tyne.
Little, Robert, 10, Princess-st., Londonderry, Ireland.
Littlehales, A., 61, Birchfield-rd., B'ham.
Lockett, A., 115, Orford-rd., Walthamst'w.
Lodge, Mrs. F., 23, Camping-lane, Woodseats, Sheffield.
Longman, C., 43, Marcellas-rd., Holloway, London, W.

RULES (which must be strictly adhered to).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Editor, assisted by a competent staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on page 746 and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d., made payable to JOHN BULL, and crossed & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not be cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.

5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, December 4th.

6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet reaching him shall receive careful consideration by a competent staff; but the Editor will not hold himself responsible for coupons lost or mislaid.

7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.

8. The Editor's decision on all matters concerning this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

A further selection of the above Prize Winners can be found in 'Mrs. Bull,' dated, Dec. 6, and the complete list may be seen at the 'John Bull' Offices.

Racing Notes.

Prophetic.

Very little is as yet known of the capabilities of horses that have recently been put to jumping, and so far these have been few and of poor quality. Lavolt, we hear, is being put over hurdles, and Balblair, Dalnaspidal and Bangalore are so far the best of the youngsters that have been schooled for the game.

There is a full week's racing this current week, but with Birmingham over before these lines appear in print, it is only necessary now to deal with the Southern meetings at Newbury and Kempton Park. Newbury looks like maintaining its reputation for winner-finding difficulties, and fields will probably rule on the big side. Some of the horses running, too, will be also on the big side, for we usually see some very beefy horses running at the meeting. One that at Alexandra Park recently ran well on the flat is

TIGER II.,

and he should win the race selected for him, probably the Berks Handicap Hurdle to-day. CABANAS has some good form, and is worth recommending for the Hants Maiden Hurdle. At Sandown last month

DALNASPIDAL

was very nearly favourite for a three-year-old hurdle, and in a big field he was second to Mutton Cutlets. This should be good enough to give him an undoubted chance in Thursday's Juvenile Hurdle. GOLOSHES, also in at Kempton later, jumped very well when third to Bedgrove at Sandown, and should win the Cranborne Steeplechase, and SKY PILOT, who has won at several minor meetings lately, should be good enough for the Andover Steeplechase.

At Kempton Park on Friday we have the best thing of the week in

GENERAL'S PRIDE

for the Kempton Park Hurdle. Gore gave a big price for this one in Ireland, and he has since won nicely at Liverpool. ALGY A., who fences well, should win the Maiden Steeplechase, and for the Selling Steeplechase I can see nothing to beat PITSEA. On Saturday

MASTER-AT-ARMS,

who has recently proved himself in form, and who likes the Kempton course, should be good for the Middlesex Steeplechase. SUNBURN is likely to take the Staines Hurdle, as is MOONSTRUCK the Richmond Steeplechase.

SPORTING REPLIES.

SMALLMAN AND TERRY (Geneva), H. McK. (Belfast), W. W. (Carnarvon), M. W. B. (Edinburgh), "NEMO."—You can obtain full information on application to Messrs. Smallman and Terry.

SYSTEMS.—GUARDIAN.—The first two firms you mention are quite respectable, but we have no special information in regard to the other one.

WHITE, FISHER AND CO.—T. C. (Whitehaven).—We understand that no trace can be found of the receipt of the commission you mention.

JAMES RUTHERFORD (Copenhagen).—J. D. P. (Dublin) and "ROSE" (Crewe), "FAIRPLAY" and OTHERS.—Letters addressed to this man have been returned. Evidently a wrong 'un.

CHARLES DAY, FRED HUNT, CHARLES MORETON (all of Fleet Street).—J. P. (Wigan).—Give them all three a miss. They probably are one and the same firm, working under the *aliases* of well-known trainers.

ANGLO-TURF CLUB (Vevey).—"OLD NAB GATE."—We cannot ecommend these people.

ATHLETIC PUBLISHING CO. (Copenhagen).—R. J. B. (Highbury).—Dead "crooks."

"SPORTING PROFIT" (Birsfelden).—C. T. (West Bromwich), who never had a ticket from these people in his life, was surprised on returning to an address which he had temporarily left, to find that his name had been published as the winner of a £200 prize! We have already exposed this gang of thieves.—W. H. (London).—See above answer.

CALCUTTA SWEEP.—A. B. C.—You must apply to the secretary at Calcutta for a list of the drawings.

LUCERNE TOTALISATOR'S MANCHESTER NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKE.

FROM OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.

On Tuesday, November 19th, I attended the draw of the Totalisator's Sweepstake for the Manchester November Handicap. The examination into every detail which I was not only permitted, but invited to make, was an interesting revelation. Everything was in perfect order, and, as was to be expected in such a well-organised business, possessing the regularity and method of a bank, nothing could be fairer and more correct than the way in which the draw was made. I brought away with me my own copy of the registration of tickets drawn, which had been compared with the other records, and which I have since checked with the printed lists, and found quite in order. The amount available for distribution in prizes was £2,520, from which was deducted £255 awarded in 51 cash prizes of £5 each to the first 51 tickets—equally carefully drawn—after the 49 winners of horses. This left the sum of £2,265 to be divided as follows: 50 per cent. to the drawer of the winner, namely £1,132 10s.; 10 per cent. to the second horse, namely £226 10s.; 5 per cent. to the third horse, namely £113 5s.; 15 per cent. to other starters, and 20 per cent. to non-starters. Every ticket as drawn was carefully compared by me with the records in the books and only such tickets as had actually been paid for were allowed to rank for prizes.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 30th November, 1912.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities, will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Year's Result.	JOHN BULL.	Lotinga's Weekly.	Umpire.	Weekly Dispatch.	Sunday Chronicle.	News of the World.	London Mail.	Irish sporting Illus.	Sports Special.
1st LEAGUE	Bolton W. v. Manchester U.	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Hom	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bradford C. v. Sheffield W.	Bradford Won	Draw	Home	Away	Draw	Away	Draw	Away	Home	Home
	Chelsea v. Derby C.	No Match	Home	Draw	Away	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Draw
	Liverpool v. Aston V.	Aston V. Won	Away	Away	Away	Away	Draw	Away	Draw	Draw	Away
	Manchester C. v. Everton	Man. C. Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home
	Newcastle U. v. Middlesbro'.	Mdlesbr. Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Oldham A. v. Tottenham H.	Oldham Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Sheffield U. v. Notts County	Notts. C. Won	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Home
	W. Brom. A. v. Sunderland	W. Brom. Won	Away	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw
	Woolwich A. v. Blackburn R.	Woolwich Won	Away	Draw	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Draw	Draw
2nd LEAGUE	Birmingham v. Blackpool	Birmihm. Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home
	Bristol C. v. Huddersfield	Bristol Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Draw	Home	Home
	Burnley v. Bradford	Burnley Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Clapton O. v. Bury	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Hull City v. Barnsley	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw
	Notts. F. v. Leeds C.	Notts. F. Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Preston N. E. v. Wol. Wands.	No Match	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Away	Draw	Home
SOUTHERN LEAGUE		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coventry C. v. Queen's P. R.	Draw	Home	Draw	Away	Draw	Away	Away	Draw	Home	—
	Merthyr v. Gillingham	No Match	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—
	Southampton v. Stoke	Sthmton. Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	—
	Plymouth A. v. Reading	Plymouth Won	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—
	Crystal Pal. v. Norwich C.	Crystal P. Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	—
	West Ham U. v. Millwall	W. Ham Won	Draw	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	—
	Portsmouth v. Swindon T.	No Match	Draw	Away	Away	Draw	Away	Away	Away	Draw	—
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Home signifies first mentioned team to win—Away second mentioned team to win.

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	Derby Cnty. v. Woolwich	
	Barnsley v. Glossop	
	Swindon v. Exeter	

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ADDRESS.....

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The following claims have been received in respect to our issue of November 2nd and 9th:—

JOHN FINLAY, Esq., c.o. Mackay, 4, Howden St., Edinburgh. November 9th. No. 384581.

F. C. SMITH, Esq., 12, Tate Road, Silvertown, E. November 9th. No. 153818.

W. H. SPINKS, Esq., 26, Ormiston Road, Westcombe Park, Greenwich, S.E. November 2nd. No. 28085.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of November 23rd:—

3498	163531	345847	501177	668968
14558	169109	365291	516227	680084
32846	183706	370906	533367	694898
43697	202320	405583	550263	704885
58542	212822	425980	568420	709561
69319	235595	436076	570301	721573
82245	259472	454756	586738	735595
113278	305533	465494	620885	756473
128298	317301	479761	637296	758502
150227	335024	500355	652258	779313

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